

ACORN

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. Newsletter



Winter 1989-90

SCHOOLS



Editors:

Quinte Region

Rodger C. Greig
Cherry Valley
Ontario
K0K 1P0

Port Hope

Tom Cruickshank
92 King Street
Port Hope, Ont. L1A 2R7
416-885-9734

Durham

Doug Anderson
111 Euclid Street
Whitby, Ontario L1N 5B1
416-668-5040

Toronto Region

G. Onen,
30 Inglewood Drive,
Toronto, Ont. M4T 1G8
416-923-5492

Hamilton-Niagara Region

Ann Gillespie
30 Canada Street
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 1N7

Heritage Cambridge

Justine M. Murdy
R.R. 2, Cambridge
Ont. N1R 5S3

Brant County

Michael Keefe
165 Tollgate Road
Brantford, Ont. N3R 5A2
519-759-0948

North Waterloo Region

Joyce Arndt,
54 Forestwood Drive
Kitchener, Ont. N2N 1B2

Associate Editor:

Marg Rowell
131 William St. N.
Waterloo, Ont. N2L 1K2
519-743-0833

London Region

Nancy Tausky,
288 James Street
London, Ont. N6A 1X3

Huron County

Christopher Borgal
66 Victoria Street North
P.O. Box 276, Goderich, Ontario
N7A 3Z2

Oxford County

Edwin Bennett
465 Vincent Street
Woodstock, Ont. N5S 5M9
519-537-3325

ACORN, XIV-3 : WINTER 1989-90

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

10 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Ont. M5C 1J3
Telephone (416) 367-8075

A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Report
Editorial
Schools
Branch News from East to West
General Conservancy News
Around and About Ontario
Sources
New Publications
Coming Events

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief:

Peter John Stokes
P.O. Box 170, 244 King Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
L0S 1J0
(416) 468-7640

Editor Emeritus:

Marion Walker Garland

Guest Editor:

Dianne M. Austin

Cover: Britannia School from the north-east, sequestered on the north-east corner of its farm with the Gardner/Dunton House of c. 1840, the home of one of its original trustees, recently relocated from closer to the Britannia corner, in the background, and to its left the brick veneer farmhouse built about 1880 for the tenant farmer and now being renovated for the farm manager.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President:

Roy B. Turner

Immediate Past President:

Donna Baker

Senior Vice-President:

Spencer Higgins

Vice-President:

Julia Beck

Treasurer:

Douglas McPhie, C.A.

Secretary:

Elizabeth Dashwood

Executive Secretary:

Ann Hughson

Membership-at-Large:

Barry Coutts

Ian McGillivray

Peter John Stokes

Glenn Tozer

Howard V. Walker

Advisory Board Chairman:

William J. Moffet

Since my last President's Report, there have been a number of developments affecting the activities of the ACO, and this report, in part, will be by way of update.

Rather than holding Council Meetings every other month, as described in the last report, a revised schedule has been drawn up. Council Meetings will be held every month, with the exceptions of January, July, August, and December. The Executive Committee will continue to meet every month. Both meetings (with a few exceptions, as necessitated by Holiday weekends) will be held on the second Saturday of the month. These Saturday meetings have proved to be difficult for some Council Members, and impossible for others, but it is hoped that if each Branch appoints an alternative representative to Council, that at least one representative from each Branch will be able to attend these meetings.

In keeping with the emphasis placed on increased membership in my last report, a Membership Committee is now being organized, with the particular purpose of increasing the number of ACO members. This effort must be channelled through the Branches, of course, and one of the functions of the Committee will be to provide guidance and assistance to the Branches in recruiting new members. If every member introduced one new member, the ACO could double its numbers in short order - admittedly an over-simplification, but nevertheless a worthy objective.

You may have noticed that the Third Vice-president was missing from the list of executives in the Summer issue of Acorn. As a result of Margaret Goodbody's resignation to move to the Maritimes, that office has been vacant, but I am happy to advise that Julia Beck, of the London Branch, and author of the Program Development Report, has agreed to fill that position. Furthermore, my responsibilities as Chairman of the Program Development Committee have been passed on to her, and she finds herself in the daunting position of implementing her own recommendations. With her knowledge of the ACO organization and activities, which she gained in researching her report, she is in a unique position to guide the Executive Committee and Council in making decisions that will further the development of the ACO into the vigorous organization envisioned by the report.

It bears repeating that these objectives cannot be reached without the participation of the members. Attendance at Council Meetings is essential if communication among the Branches and with Council is to be maintained at a fruitful level. If a Branch cannot be represented in person, then a written report, even if it is in a negative vein, will indicate that the Branch is still alive, and may indicate an area of concern where Council might be of assistance to the Branch.

The progress of the ACO project to restore the Skinner/Jackson House in Camden East, is reported elsewhere in this issue. As indicated in my last report, this property is available for purchase. It is the present intention to have the building structure and enclosing roof and walls repaired by the early Spring, and to have the house designated. As funds permit, work will move ahead to the installation of heating, plumbing, and electrical systems, and interior finishes, and if a buyer can be found in the early stages of this work, it can be tailored to the requirements of the purchaser. Further details of the property can be made available to those who are interested, and inquiries are invited.

Watch for developments in fundraising!

Roy B. Turner

President

EDITORIAL

THE PROVINCIAL SAVE OUR SCHOOLS COALITION

Many of our schools exist today either as a product of school consolidation in the 60s or because they survived a consolidation movement that was spurred by concerns for efficiency and quality. During those times it was assumed both that the larger school would be more economical to operate and that the consolidated school would be better equipped to meet a wider range of needs. School closures are once again showing up on school board agendas with increasing frequency. In the years 1980 to 1987, School Boards closed 104 schools that housed between one and five teachers.

However, the reasons for such closures are not so easy to define or defend as they were in the 1960s. Research on school closure has thrown doubt on the assumptions about the educational and economic benefits of consolidation. As well, many parents and communities strongly resist any movements to close their schools based upon the issues of school size. Supported by both parents and researchers is the belief that community schools are the life blood of villages and small towns, that they encourage the socialization of the whole community from the youngest child to the oldest resident. In many rural communities the school, as well as being the focal point of the community, has historic value due to the age of the structure itself.

The Provincial Save Our Schools Coalition was formed in response to this resurgence by Boards of Education to close community/neighbourhood schools. The Coalition was formed in August 1987 by the coming together of groups from areas all across the province who have or were facing school closures. Since that time the Coalition has worked hard to fulfil its purpose of:

- 1) increasing the awareness level of the benefits of the community/neighbourhood school, and the need to retain such an important community asset;
- 2) to provide assistance to parents, schools, and School Boards in maintaining and developing quality education in small schools;
- 3) to provide a voice to bring concerns regarding small schools to the attention of the Ministry of Education;
- 4) to bring together educators, administrators, public representatives, teachers and parents so that they can positively address small school education.

The Coalition can provide speakers; research materials that support smaller school settings (over sixty articles); networking with educational consultants; assistance in forming community action response groups, press and publicity formulas and constructive school board presentations.

Recently the Select Committee On Education, which reports to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario passed two recommendations:

- 1) That the Ministry of Education should review the General Legislative Grants for small schools, small boards and isolated boards to ensure that these boards and schools are able to deliver the same core programs available elsewhere in the province.
- 2) That the Ministry should reinstate designated allocations for renovations within the capital funding model. This recommendation included in its preface the following quote: "One group, the Provincial Save Our Schools Coalition, argued that existing capital funding mechanisms artificially encouraged the construction of new schools rather than appropriate renovation or upgrading (of existing schools)".

The positive quality brought to a child's education by a small school setting are worth preserving. This philosophy of education, one which recognizes the importance and value of the interaction among the students, teachers, parents, and the community, is fundamental to quality education. This is the philosophy the Provincial Save Our Schools Coalition is committed to. It is our hope and desire that this philosophy will be shared and supported by the Ministry of Education and School Boards alike in the very near future.

For further information please contact: Dianne Austin, Co-ordinator, Provincial Save Our Schools Coalition, Box 135, Norland, Ont. K0M 2L0, (705) 454-1411.

Dianne M. Austin

Dianne Austin is an elected Trustee of the Victoria County Board of Education, founder and at present Co-ordinator of the Provincial Save Our Schools Coalition, and lives in Norland, Ontario. She has been a speaker on her subject at various educational assemblies and has co-authored a paper with a Doctor of Education of OISE, a Trustee with the Sudbury Board of Education, concerning Administration Practices in Relation to School Closures. Mrs. Austin first came to the ACO seeking advice on the merit of some of the older schools in her area threatened with closure and written up in *Acorn*.

Marie Avey, a career teacher, with a special position as the teacher in the Museum School at Burgessville, is also a teacher-librarian at the area's "new" consolidated elementary school. Interested for many years in heritage matters she has also chaired the Township of Norwich-LACAC.

Joyce Arndt, our North Waterloo Region Branch Editor, writes about the loss of a good rural school which might well have served its new suburban surroundings.

Ann Gillespie, Acorn Editor for the Hamilton/Niagara Branch, brings us cheerful news of success with a City school preservation.

Michael Keefe, Brant County Branch Editor, writes not only of Brantford's schools, but also of a fascinating Catholic heritage block containing two schools and being considered for new uses.

Jim Quantrell is the City of Cambridge Archivist. He kindly consented to the reprinting of his story, as part of *Acorn's* look at "Schools."

The unabridged version of "*Elementary Education in the Early Years of Cambridge*" first appeared as a two-part article in the *Cambridge Reporter*, December 17th, 1986, and January 21st, 1987.

Nancy Tausky, Acorn Editor from the London Region, co-author, with Lynne D. Distephano of *Victorian Architecture in London and Southwestern Ontario: Symbols of Aspiration*, 1987, brings to the fore her considerable knowledge to bear on London's school history.

Peter John Stokes found the Mississauga miracle of Britannia School Farm so remarkable that the story of it was considered worth sharing.

SOME OF OXFORD COUNTY'S SCHOOLS



U.S.S.#3, North Norwich, Burgessville Public School 1905. An old photograph showing the original detail intact.

Courtesy Norwich Archives

The Oxford County Museum School by Marie Avey

A few decades ago there were dozens of little rural schools sprinkled throughout the area. Most were one-room brick, often white. Some are now disintegrating but many have found new lives as antique shops, senior citizens centres, farm implement businesses, private schools, and private homes.

The old S.S. #3 North Norwich in Burgessville has a new use too, but one that is very much in tune with its past.

It is now the Oxford County Museum School, a co-operative effort of the Elementary Principals' Association and the Oxford County Board of Education.

Officially opened in 1976 the Museum School is founded on the belief that knowledge of the past helps in understanding the present and planning for the future.

The Museum School:

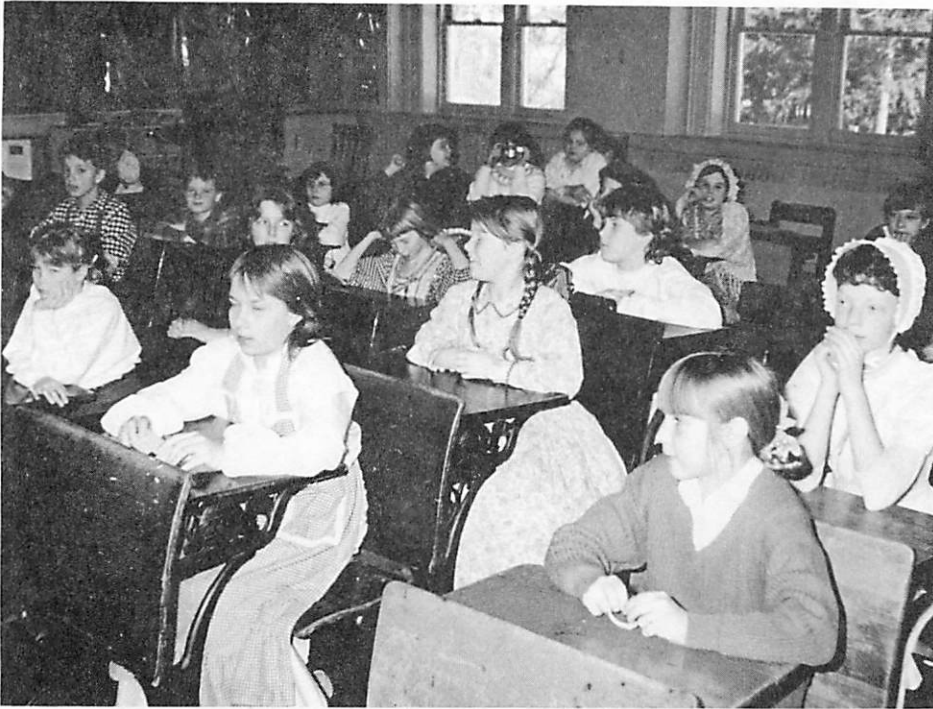
- 1) displays educational artifacts
- 2) provides an authentic historical teaching centre
- 3) makes educational resources available for research

When a class arrives they quickly learn that they have entered another time zone. Around the flagpole they are told to "stand with their heels together, toes slightly apart, like good soldiers of the



S.S.#3, North Norwich 1905, Burgessville, Ontario. Photo Christmas 1977.

Courtesy Norwich Archives



Oxford County Museum School, former Burgessville Public School. Playing the part: modern school

children enjoying that old-fashioned experience.
Photo courtesy Mrs. Marie Avey



c. 1870 One room "white" brick school in Blenheim/Blandford: the one that got away. Its role as a community centre ceasing, it was torn down and by

local planning policy its yard was to be returned to agricultural use.

PJS Photo January 1989

Empire" as the Union Jack is raised, and then to pledge their "undying loyalty to King and country" before marching into the school in two straight lines, girls' line first, of course!

A rigorous drill designed to teach precise raising and lowering of the desks' movable seats (and also to teach unthinking obedience) follows. Next, pupils learn that they must raise their hand to ask or answer a question, and then stand again in military style to speak.

Often the role-playing is interrupted to give pupils a chance to ask questions about the school and the period (early twentieth century). This is a chance for the schoolmistress to share from a collection of anecdotes. When the class seems in danger of relaxing too much they are brought back to attention by the time-honoured crack of the pointer across the teacher's desk.

When the Three R's are introduced, today's "lefties" find that here one writes always with the right hand. The use of slates and slate pencils, straight pens and ink appeals to everyone. The outdoor recesses with stilts, hoops and sticks are always welcome breaks.

In the Morris Carter Gallery, pupils investigate early textbooks, retired lunch pails, Eaton's catalogues from the 1920s and 30s, early audio-visual equipment and report cards.

In the letters that come back to the school after a class visit the pupils usually mention their enjoyment of various hands-on activities, but frequently they mention a post-visit conversation with Grandpa or Grandma in which they discussed his/her experiences as a school child. What better way to develop a sense of chronology and also the awareness that history is real and personal!

The blocky, red brick, two-room school house constructed in 1905 to replace another that burned the year before is built in the substantial Baronial style. Until 1961 it served as the local Burgessville school.

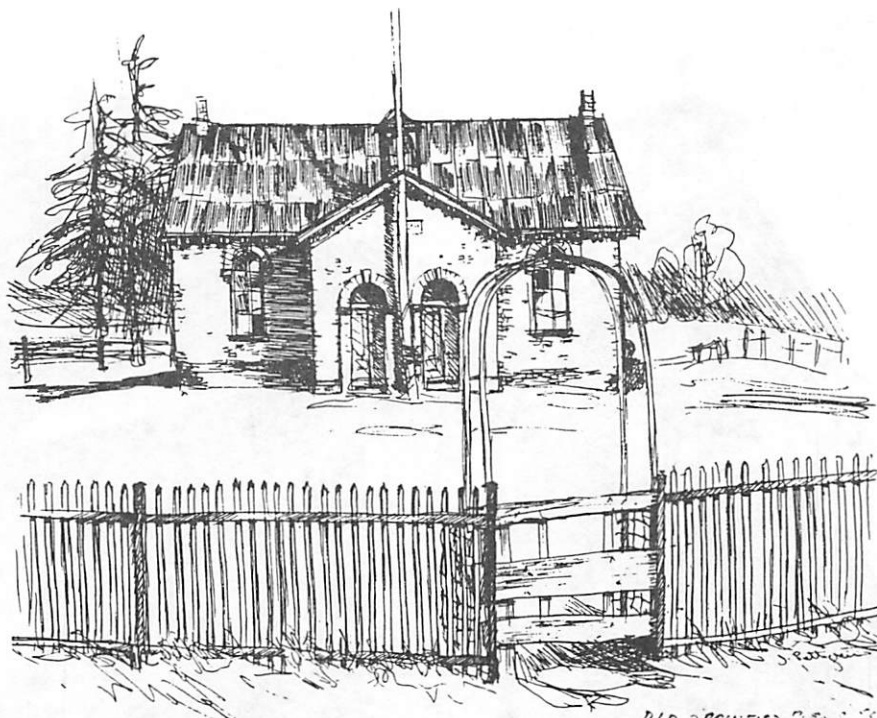
The false front of the sheltered entrance compliments the lines of the square bell-tower and highlights the door and window openings.

The school was built to conform to Department of Education plans that insisted on light coming from the back and left side.

It was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1987 and one room was named the Morris Carter Gallery after an Oxford educator who had been one of its chief supporters.

When the building was opened as a Museum School fourteen years ago, no other such program existed in Ontario. Today, there are several similar ones across the province. Peel County Board of Education has restored the Old Britannia Schoolhouse and East York Board of Education has built a replica of a one-room schoolhouse on their board office property. In 1988 the Oxford County Museum School hosted their third annual gathering of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in heritage school programs across Ontario. More than forty persons attended and were impressed by this facility and its collections.

December 1989



Old Springford Public School, 1870, South Norwich Township.

Sketch by Joanne Pettigrew

The Old Springford Public School

Soon after the arrival of settlers to an area, the establishment of a school became a necessity. The first schoolhouses in the Township of Norwich were crude log buildings with split log benches, a fireplace, and sometimes only greased paper windows. A volunteer, with some previous education, became the teacher. As soon as possible this form of building was replaced by one of sturdier construction.

In Springford, the second school described as being the "Block School" burned in 1869. In 1870, this school was built of white brick from the Jenvey Tile Yard in Springford. It is quite different in design from the usual one-room rectangular plan, which features the entrance in the gable end often with a vestibule. In the Springford school, the vestibule is on the broad side of the building with two adjacent entrance doors. The two doors were, of course, to keep the boys and girls separated. A projecting room at the back of the school, opposite the vestibule, gives the building a cruciform shape. The vestibule stored coats and lunch pails while the back room sometimes stored the class clown. The teacher's desk sat on a platform just inside the vestibule and a stove at either end heated the large room. Blackboards were interspaced between the openings around the room.

The front of the school is quite ornate compared to many schoolhouses. One would wonder why the boys and girls had

to have separate doors when the entrances are so close to one another. These rounded doorways with semi-circular transoms over the double doors were surrounded with projecting brickwork in the form of pilasters with supporting keystone arches. Originally these were further embellished with lattice-work arches. Under the eaves are simple, paired brackets for further decoration. As if to accent the symmetry, the flag pole rises directly in the middle of the building.

Though the school was closed in 1952, the turnstile gate is still there to remind us of its by-gone era with long skirts, pigtailed and even the hickory stick.

In 1947, the Township of South Norwich became one of the pioneers in the Province to implement a consolidated School Board with school buses to bring the pupils of the township to a central school at Otterville. Thus, within a few years, the era of the one-room school, and the possibility of being educated by one teacher, came to a close.

Courtesy of Norwich Archives

Pleasant Valley School, S.S.#13, North Norwich Township

The property was purchased from Charles Hulet, being part of the present lot (concession 5, lot 15). Here a small red brick

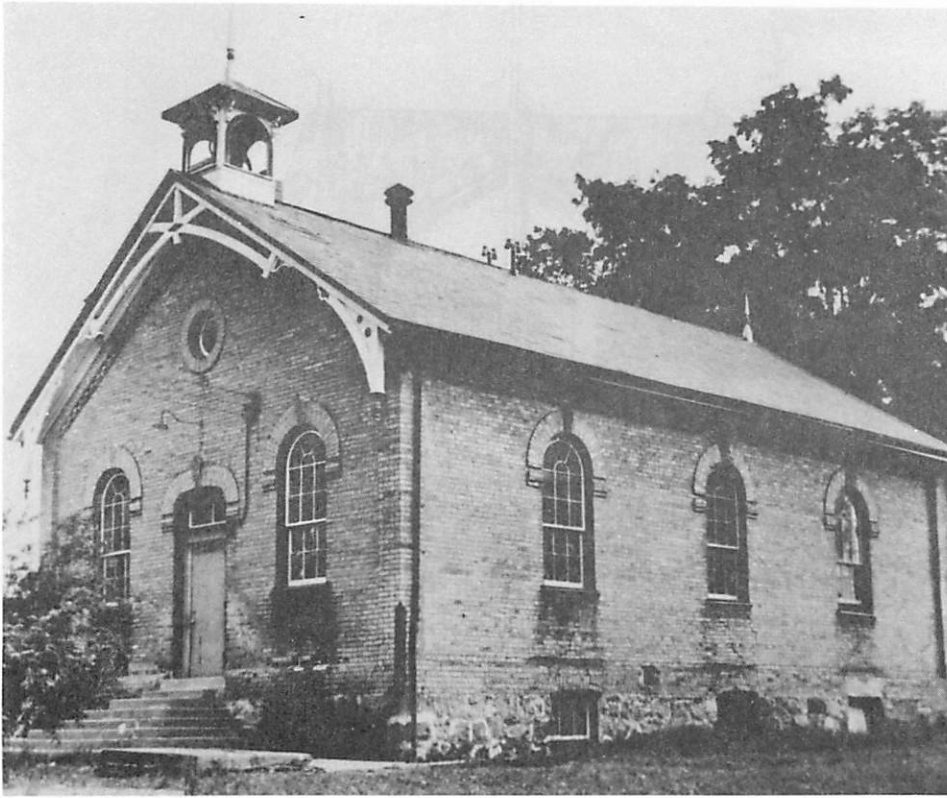
building was built and a well was dug on the north-east corner, followed, in later years by a flowing well. In 1875 more land was bought, filling it out to the south corner, and the present white brick school house was built by Dan Donald. Mr. Donald said if it did not last for 100 years, they could come to his grave and settle with him.

Before either of these structures was built, there was a school, supposedly a log building, which stood across from Frank Jamieson's farm (Jamieson's property was C. 6. L15). Alfred Moore's father taught there. (Mr. Alfred Moore was Mrs. Jull's brother-in-law).

The name "Pleasant Valley" was first suggested by Mr. Bartholomew, who was then Editor of the *Norwich Gazette*. He, being present at a school entertainment, noted it as being "pleasant little valley" and thought it would be an appropriate name.

Augustus Bushell planted the first four maple trees in front, for his children. Will Copeland afterwards planted more of them around the yard. Mr. Frith (?) was the last teacher remembered in the old school and moved "us" to the new one, being a memorable day. (By Emma Waring). Mr. Copeland followed later and taught for years.

Mr. Copeland followed later and taught for years.



Pleasant Valley School, 1875, S.S.#13, North Norwich. Now designated under the Ontario Heritage Act after purchase by the Order of the Eastern Star in 1961, who use it for their lodge rooms.

Courtesy Norwich Archives

Renovating the Right Way: Stinson Street School in Hamilton

by Ann Gillespie

One of the greatest losses to Hamilton's architectural heritage is the disappearance of all but three of its Victorian public schools. Of a total of eleven built, only Central Public School (1853), West Avenue School (1885) and Stinson Street School (1894) are still standing. All three are, fortunately, now designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The most recent loss was the 1889 Wentworth Street School, destroyed by a catastrophic fire one night last December while undergoing extensive renovations for its conversion to non-profit housing.

The City's first public school, and at the time of its opening the largest graded school in British North America, Central Public, came under threat in 1977, when the Board of Education seriously considered closing it after enrolment had dropped to just over 100 students. Through

the innovative solution of a mixed educational/commercial use, however, Central Public School has remained open: since 1979, the ground floor has accommodated the elementary school while the upper floor has been leased to Dalton Insurance Agencies.

Following its closure in 1985, West Avenue School was purchased by the City with the intent of demolishing it for a municipal parking lot, a plan which came dangerously close to becoming a reality. It was not until after the property had already been rezoned in 1987 that LACAC first became aware of the situation and intervened to save this historic school. After investigating possible uses for the building and gaining the support of various community groups interested in the space it offered, LACAC succeeded in persuading City Council to reverse its decision. Although a long-term use has not yet been determined, the school is currently providing temporary accommodation for a local theatre group.

Some of the teachers of Pleasant Valley School were:

In 1893 - Walter Hastings - uncle of Charles Hastings, Norwich and great of Merla (McMillen) de Montmorency.

In 1899 - D.M. Sutherland - Dr. Don (of Embro and Woodstock) as we knew him (M.P. for Oxford and Minister for National Defence in R.B. Bennett government 1931-35, whose handsome brick house still stands in Embro, was reported on to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in the late 1960s shortly before his death.)

Miss Nott, who also taught at Milldale and some eighteen other teachers followed until 1961 when a large central public school was built in Burgessville to accommodate all the pupils from North. The above is an edited version of an article written by Eleanor Ryder from information supplied by Lila (Jull) Freeland of Otterville and believed to have been written originally by Mrs. William Waring and Mrs. Ernest Jull. We are indebted to the Norwich Archives.

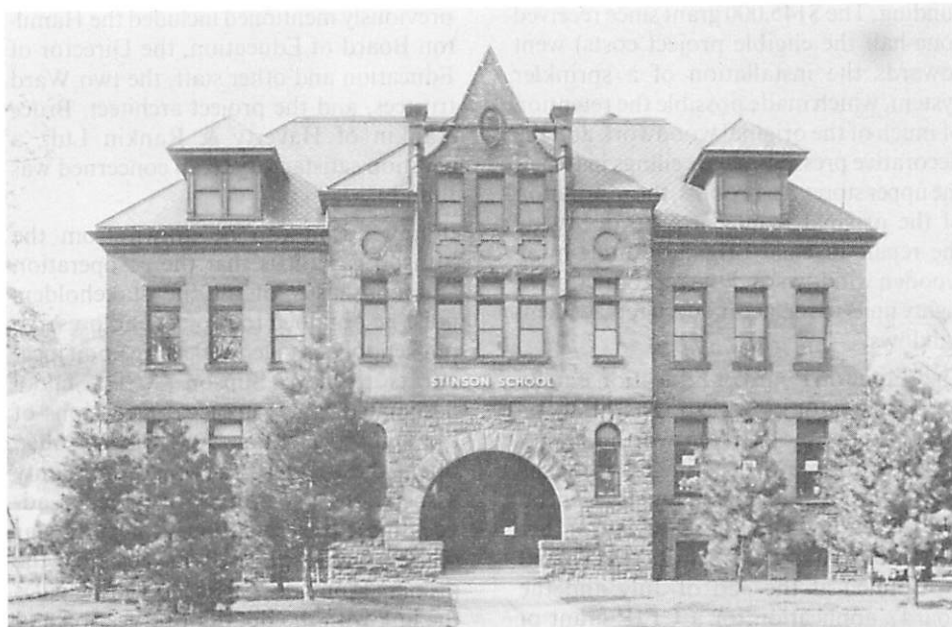
Of the three nineteenth century public schools still standing, Stinson Street School is the only one to have been continuously and entirely devoted to educational purposes, and the only one never to have faced the threat of demolition. Early last year, however, it became apparent that extensive renovations planned for the summer of 1989 did pose a serious threat to the architectural integrity of the original 1895 building and its almost identical 1915 addition. This distinguished Richardsonian Romanesque school, designed by the noted Hamilton architect, A.W. Peene, who also designed the former Hamilton Public Library (now the Unified Family Court), is the only surviving public building in the City to exemplify this style. Moreover, it is remarkably well-preserved, with virtually all of its exterior features and most of its interior features still intact.

Fortunately, the heritage value of Stinson Street School was well recognized by certain staff members, the Home and

School Association, and by a number of neighbourhood residents. Worthy of mention in this regard are the principal, Bob Wilson, whose commitment to the school has gone well beyond his professional obligations; Gordon Downing, a grade 5 teacher and historian with an avid interest in Stinson; and David Cohen, until recently a resident of Stinson neighbourhood whose daughter attended the school for three years. Mr. Cohen's active involvement in the Home and School Association, the Ontario Neighbourhood Improvement Programme Committee for Stinson Neighbourhood and the local branch of the ACO put him in good position to initiate and co-ordinate the early, critical efforts to have the school designated and ensure that the planned renovations would not adversely affect its heritage character and features.

The problem with Stinson, as with any older school presently undergoing renovations to serve better the students and staff, is that the building must at the same time be brought up to current Building and Fire Code standards, which can add significantly to the cost of the renovations and may require alterations at variance with architectural conservation standards. The inevitable budget restraints often dictate solutions which are practical and economical but not always architecturally sensitive. In the case of Stinson Street School, two proposed alterations to meet fire safety standards could have entailed the removal of significant original features. First, the tall panelled wood doors and frames of the classrooms were to be replaced with standard-sized fire-rated metal ones, like those in the steel and glass partition walls which now enclose the stairways. Secondly, the windows on the two interfacing walls of the original 1894 building and the 1915 addition (two separate buildings linked by a more recent gymnasium addition) were to be blocked up to create a fire wall. These alterations would clearly have been undesirable, both in terms of the loss of part of the historic fabric of the building and their negative visual impact. Consideration initially was also given, largely as an energy conservation measure, to replacing all the original, double-hung wood windows with new windows of similar design, but this proposal was abandoned due to the prohibitively high cost of the replacement windows.

The following brief account outlines the strategy worked out and steps taken to get Stinson Street School designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and also to reconcile the conflicting goals of preserving to the fullest extent possible the heritage



Current view of Stinson Street School, Hamilton, showing principal façade of 1895 building.
Photo by Ann Gillespie, Courtesy Hamilton LACAC.

character and features of the school while upgrading it to current Building Code and Fire Code standards, all within the Board's tight budget.

At a preliminary meeting held in early January 1989 between the principal, Mr. Downing and representatives of the local ACO branch (David Cohen), the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society (Murray Aikman, also a public school teacher) and LACAC (Ann Gillespie), it was agreed that the three heritage organizations should send letters to the principal, with copies to the Board of Education, emphasizing the architectural and historical significance of the building and the benefits of having it designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. It was pointed out that while the primary purpose of designation was to acknowledge formally the importance of Stinson Street School to the City as a whole and give the building some measure of protection against demolition and unsympathetic alterations, the Board would be eligible to apply for heritage funding once the school was designated. If such funding could be obtained, it would enable the Board to carry out the planned renovations within its budget while preserving the building's significant architectural features. The Board was urged specifically to apply for a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications' Cultural Facilities Improvement Program (CFIP) to cover the additional cost of installing a sprinkler system, which would satisfy fire code requirements without having to block up any windows or replace original woodwork with non-combustible materials (or paint it every three years with fire-retardant

varnish or paint). Funding from this program could also be applied to repointing the brickwork, repairing the slate roofs and retrofitting the existing original wood windows (i.e. repairing the sash and frames and improving their thermal efficiency).

Fortunately, such a solution was not unprecedented in the Hamilton-Wentworth area. Several years ago the Wentworth County Board of Education was facing a serious dilemma over the future of the historic Central Public School in Dundas, the original front section of which dates back to 1857. The library ceiling was falling down and in order for it to be repaired, the entire building had to be upgraded to meet current life-safety standards. Confronted with renovations estimated at over \$1 million, the Board was looking at a number of options, which included permanently closing the school and relocating the pupils and staff to the former Dundas District High School. Many of the parents were, however, strongly opposed to such a move: the school was much less conveniently located at the west end of the town and its location on the main street below the escarpment posed numerous safety hazards for young children. As a result, an energetic public campaign to keep Central Public School open ensued. The strong community support for renovating the existing centrally-located elementary school, combined with the prospect of additional funding from heritage grant programs, finally convinced the Board to support the Dundas LACAC's recommendation that the school be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (by-law passed in 1988) and to apply for CFIP

funding. The \$145,000 grant since received (one-half the eligible project costs) went towards the installation of a sprinkler system, which made possible the retention of much of the original woodwork and the decorative pressed-metal ceilings in two of the upper storey classrooms, the restoration of the original front entrance doorway, the repair of eight original double-hung wooden windows and the reproduction of eighty units to replace modern replacement windows.

The Hamilton Board of Education is to be commended for its decision to follow the precedent set by the Wentworth County Board in adopting a "heritage approach" to the renovation of Dundas Central Public School. The final designation by-law for Stinson Street School was passed by Council at the end of July and the Board's application for a CFIP grant of approximately \$150,000 is currently being processed. Thanks to the co-ordinated efforts of many parties, which in addition to those organizations and individuals

previously mentioned included the Hamilton Board of Education, the Director of Education and other staff, the two Ward trustees, and the project architect, Bruce Rankin of Haverty & Rankin Ltd., a solution satisfactory to all concerned was found.

If any lesson can be drawn from the Stinson case, it is that the co-operation and consensus of all the stakeholders must be obtained to protect and preserve our school heritage. Reflecting upon local efforts to have Stinson Street School designated under the legal provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, David Cohen offers the following advice: Community associations or groups of parents advocating the designation of a particular school would do well to get first the principal "on side." The school principal is the link with the Board of Education and must be persuaded that the case for designation is a good one — indeed one worth supporting wholeheartedly. It must be remembered that the principal, by

supporting designation, is undertaking something of a risk; the easier, safer route is to go along with the Board's routine procedures and ignore the "frills" of architecture and history.

To share the concluding sentiments expressed in the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society's letter to the principal of Stinson (February 1989): "Imagination, flexibility, careful planning and investigation of all available areas of funding, coupled with co-operative school-community partnership can make possible the establishment of Stinson Street School as a showpiece for Hamilton and its public school system." It is hoped, moreover, that the City's early twentieth century public schools, a number of which have considerable architectural merit, will be treated in a manner similar to Stinson Street School when major renovations are undertaken, thereby ensuring their long-term preservation and enhancement for the continued enjoyment of their teachers and pupils, and the community at large.

A Catholic Heritage Block in Brantford

by Michael Keefe

Except for a couple of modest residences, the block enclosed by Palace, Pearl, Crown, and Richmond Streets in Brantford is entirely a Roman Catholic institutional block recalling the early twentieth century.

Anchoring the block on the north-east is St. Basil's Church, a neo-Gothic landmark by Brantford's nineteenth century architect, John Turner, famous for our County Courthouse and various commercial and religious buildings.

Next to the church is the rectory, a gracious and comfortable building built to house a staff of priests (now reduced to one). Behind the rectory are St. Basil's School and St. Ann's School, reminders of the days of gender separation. Between the schools is the old St. Joseph's Convent, occupied for many years by the diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph.

Alas, the two schools and the convent are virtually deserted, victims of both residential flight to the suburbs and the decline of religious vocations. While the title to St. Ann's rests with the Brant County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, the titles to the convent and St. Basil's School are with the Diocese of Hamilton, and thus easily transferable.

Many churches in Ontario, of many different denominations, are getting involved in making church land available under church sponsorship for geared-to-income housing for some of the less advantaged members of the community.

Essentially, the mechanism of this operation is that the church, as its equity, makes available land for the housing and the provincial government guarantees long term mortgage loans. St. Basil's has made



St. Basil's Rectory and, right, a corner of St. Basil's Church.

Photos by M. Keefe

a commitment for housing primarily for single mothers. The province has granted enough money for a preliminary study. This study is to include working drawings. After this point is reached, the Province will grant (or deny) approval to go ahead with construction.

So what does this have to do with heritage conservation? It would be a bit of a challenge to make a case for the preservation of some of these buildings for either architectural or historical merit *on an individual basis*. However, the entire block is a major element of old downtown Brantford, with each building contributing its worth to its neighbors.

In stepped your Brant County editor, who is also a member of St. Basil's parish, volunteering to serve on the committee involved.

It was interesting that the other committee members had not given serious thought to reuse of the existing buildings. Instead, it was assumed that the project would start with demolition of the existing structures.

There seemed to be a sense that heritage preservation, while a noble cause, was somewhat frivolous when contrasted with the need - and opportunity - to provide low-cost housing for our less fortunate fellows. When it was pointed out that there was no need to make a choice between people and buildings, that, indeed, preservation of the built environment might be a strong expression of caring

Brantford's Schools

By Michael Keefe

The best of Brantford's schools were ... Unfortunately, the foregoing paragraph is fairly accurate and fairly complete. The heritage community of the entire province has agonized with Brant County as we have watched a couple of our better schools succumb to wreckers' balls and incendiaries. In such a way, we lost King Edward School and Central School.

There are communities whose schools can be called an architectural attraction. In Brant, however, as a general rule, the best to be said is that, if you're driving by anyway, you might as well have a look. In going from downtown Brantford to the Graham Bell Homestead, where Bell conceived the idea of the telephone, one passes Farrington Hill School. Farrington



A Catholic heritage block in Brantford. Left to right: the old St. Ann's School, St. Joseph's Convent and St. Basil's School.

about people, without sacrifice of economy, there was a swing to the recycling viewpoint.

An architect has been engaged. The initial approach will be to join the old convent to St. Basil's School. The joining will use sympathetic infill, with elevators and major utilities (including a new heating plant for the church itself).

Demolition will be considered only if total conversion and updating appears to be economically prohibitive.

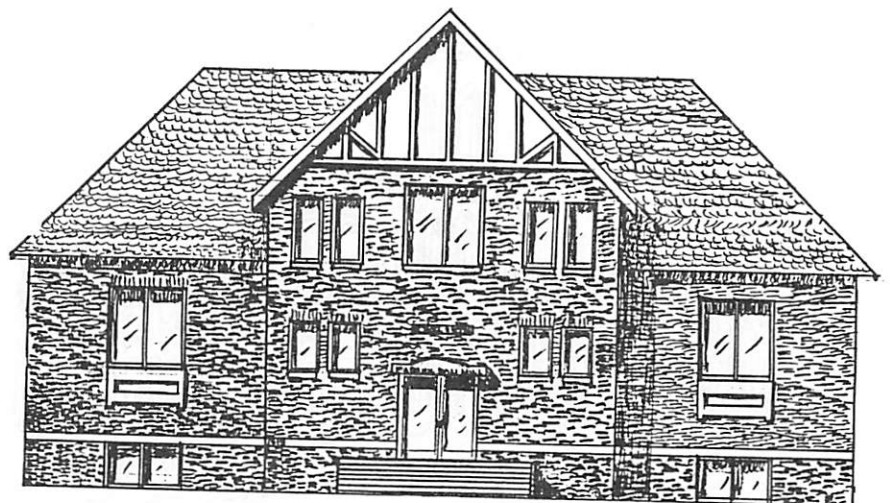
This is the stage where we are now, a very preliminary stage. It is to be hoped that followups in future issues of *ACORN* will document a success story in heritage conservation. Only time will tell. Watch future issues for the unfolding story.

Further Developments:

Because of the City's intransigent demands to accommodate parking for the project the loss of St. Joseph's Convent, the centrepiece in the picture above, is threatening.

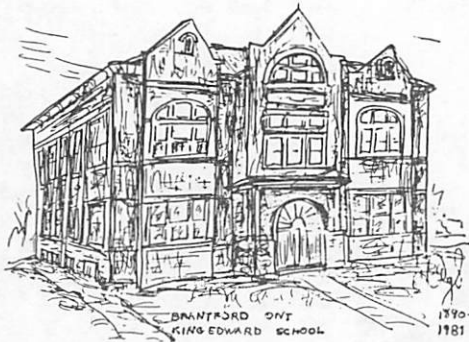
Farrington Hill School, Brantford.

Sketch by M. Keefe



FARRINGTON HILL SCHOOL IN BRANTFORD ON 1989-0726

TJJK



effect. On each side of the school is one room up and one room down. The building is located on a rise backing to the Grand River. Its present configuration is not greatly different from its appearance when newly built in 1915. The exterior presents a quasi-Tudor appearance in brick with stone trim. The main front gable imitates Elizabethan half-timbering with plaster infill. The roof, with its jaunty pitch, is covered in slate.

Most of Brant's present schools are in the twenty to fifty-year age range. Many went through a glass block phase, windows being filled in, partially or wholly, with the stuff. Some of the schools were built during this era, so that they display expanses of glass block as part of their original design.

After the glass block phase, with the concern for saving energy, many schools had their window openings partially filled in, usually with a random-rusticated concrete product, sometimes in soft pastel shades of such eye-catching hues as puce. Others had the masonry openings left undisturbed, but with the older sash replaced with something more up to date, glazed with a tinted glass, totally devoid of visible mullions and muntins, and looking wall-eyed.

The Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School ("B.C.I.") has a rather pleasing two-and-a-half storey façade, not unlike many other collegiates in the province. It has a more modern wing on the left in a contrasting style which one might describe as "Collegiate Nondescript." The bands of windows across the original

building have been updated with the "wall-eyed special."

Victoria School is in a pleasant neighbourhood in an old downtown location. It is a neat, two-storey school whose most remarkable feature is a well proportioned Greek key frieze done in projecting brick. It fits its block well, uncrowded, and with venerable trees.

Of the present schools of the Separate School Board, only St. Mary's has a reasonable age, but not a great deal else to recommend it. Two former schools of this board survive within feet of Victoria School. These are St. Ann's School, still owned by the Separate School Board, and

St. Basil's School, now owned by the Diocese of Hamilton. Both are seriously underused at the present time. Neither could be classed as great heritage architecture. In isolation, it might prove difficult to justify their preservation on either architectural or historic grounds. However, this is a case where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. These two schools, along with a former convent, a rectory, a social hall, and a church, make up a substantial and aesthetically pleasing Catholic institutional block, as described earlier.

While the parish seems to favour converting St. Basil's School and the convent to housing, there are some justified concerns and the project must still pass the city authorities and neighbourhood public meetings, but signs are encouraging. If this move is successful, the earlier, vibrant nature of the block will be restored and the physical appearance will only be minimally changed. Preliminary discussions suggest that both the Brantford Heritage Committee and the Brant County Branch of the Conservancy are in support of the project, as is the Ontario Ministry of Housing.

The topic of schools could not be left without mentioning the W. Ross MacDonald School for the Visually Impaired (formerly the Ontario School for the Blind). This is a complex of buildings in a genuine park-like setting. There are some very attractive residential buildings, dormitory buildings, and more modern administrative and instructional buildings. Some aspects of this complex are truly worthy of architectural designation and the whole institution, being a world-famous facility, is certainly of great historical interest.

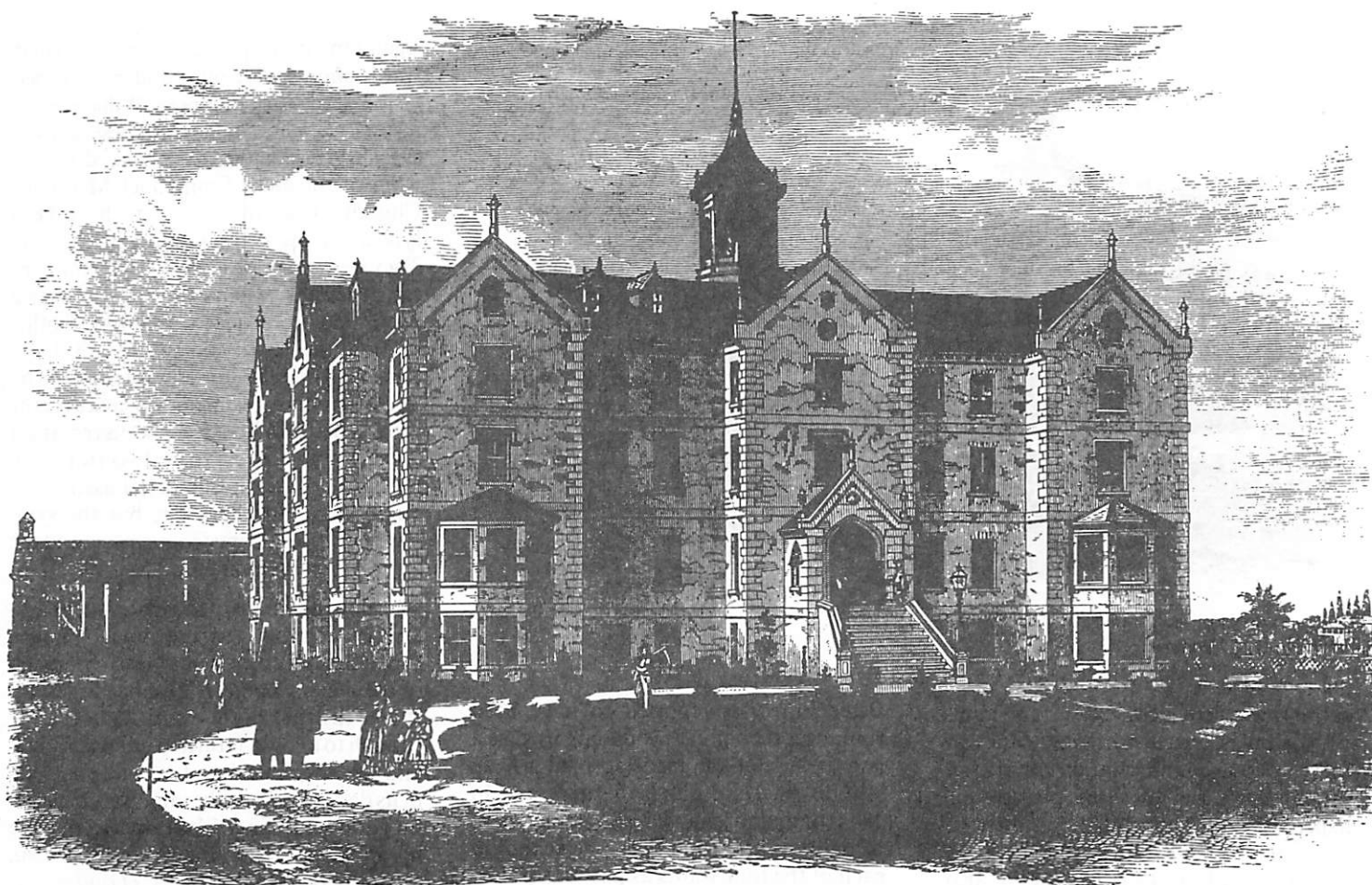
One starts to contemplate Brant's schools with little enthusiasm. We do not have a gold mine in the architecture of our schools, but then, neither is it dross.



Sketch by Audrey Scott

is the site of most of the county's programming for gifted children. Since gifted education is a low priority, low budget item with most school boards, the local board established it at Farringdon, an old-fashioned, underused building which has never been substantially updated except for a modest addition on the back made several years ago. The basic school consists of a broad centre hall with a wide stair in the middle turning both ways as it nears the top to produce a rather nice cascading





THE HELLMUTH COLLEGE AT LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA WEST.

LONDON'S SCHOOLS

by Nancy Tausky

"To Throw Wide the Portals of Learning"

The high value that London's early citizenry placed on education is made evident by a number of public proclamations and, more convincing perhaps, by the comprehensive facilities provided during the nineteenth century at both public and private institutions. In 1864, defending the classical program in the public schools, Superintendent Wilson presented a patriotic vision of education's importance in a democracy:

In a community like ours, where no advantage of birth or exclusive privilege obtains, and where the way is open to the talented and aspiring, however humble their position, it becomes the duty of the patriot and the statesman to throw wide the portals of learning to all, and to give the means of making their talents available in the competition of life ('Superintendent's Report,' *County of Middlesex Gazetteer and Directory*, 1864-65).

When school principal J.B. Boyle worried during the same period that the schools

were working their students too hard, he found it difficult to ease the student's loads because the parents favoured "still ... more lessons" ('Principal's Report,' *Directory*, 1864-65). When the London-produced *Farmer's Advocate* began publication a few years later, a major theme in its first issues was the importance of schooling; farm families were encouraged even to consider sending their children to Upper Canada College or to one of the new private schools nearer at hand.

Private Schools

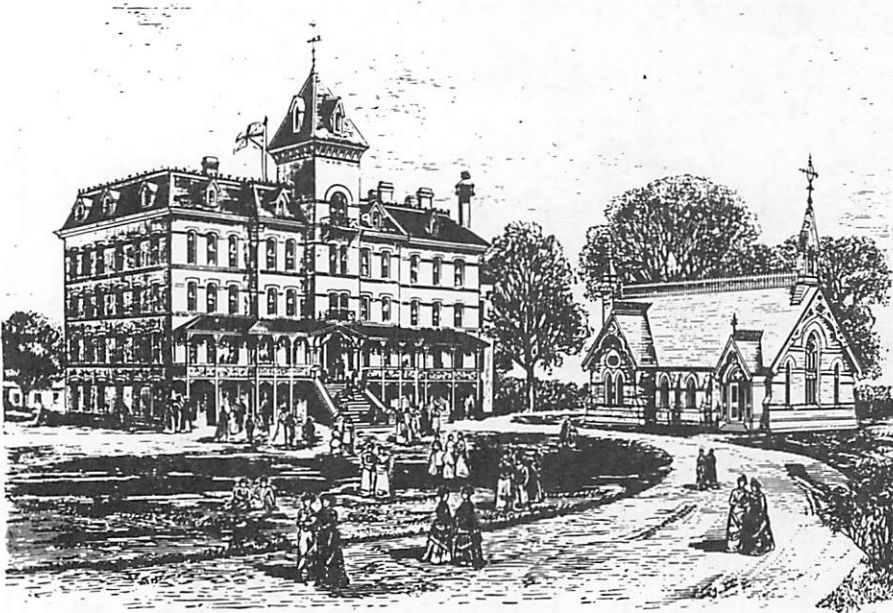
London boasted two new private schools, both proudly illustrated in the *Farmer's Advocate*, and both set projects of the man who was to become the area's second Anglican Bishop, Isaac Hellmuth. Hellmuth Boys' School, as it came known, offered its first classes in 1865, in a building designed by local architect William Robinson to offer every comfort and every material aid to learning. Costing an astronomical \$66,000, the new school held dormitory space for 150 students, apartments for their instructors, and a four-storey residence for the headmaster, as well as reception and living rooms,

Hellmuth Boy's School; from *The Canadian Illustrated News*.

classrooms (liberally furnished with estimable tools for teaching, including \$3,000 worth of scientific equipment), a library, and a museum; pupils also benefitted from the central steam heating, gas lighting, and indoor plumbing. Outside the main block students were supplied with a gymnasium, cricket field, racket court, swimming pond, skating rink, and grounds landscaped with an instructive variety of trees.

The main building, designed by local architect and City Engineer William Robinson, despite all its luxurious amenities, lacked both the grace and imagination typically found in his work; the Tudor details seem too sparingly applied, and the classical symmetry seems merely monotonous. Possibly it was a similar evaluation on Hellmuth's part that led him to look further afield for architects to design his later projects.

The main block of Hellmuth Ladies' College (1868) was designed by Gundry and Langley of Toronto. Though approximately as tall and broad as Robinson's structure, the Ladies' College appears more unified and less gaunt; the dominant



Hellmuth Ladies' College from Goodspeed's *History of the County of Middlesex*.

central tower provides a clear focal point, and the pronounced horizontal lines of the string courses and veranda counteract the building's height. The picturesque chapel that added a further adornment to the grounds in 1877 was designed by Gordon Lloyd of Detroit. Lloyd also drew up plans (never implemented) for an extensive reconstruction of the Boys' College when it was sold in the late 1870s to the newly formed University of Western Ontario.

The Public School System

Setting up a school had been one of the community's first concerns after the decision was made in 1826 to establish a district town on the crown land reserved for the future city of London; by 1827 one

Peter Emery is reported to have been running a school in the building used as a jail, the first of a number of small private schools that sprang up in the new town. In 1844 the town appointed a Superintendent of Schools and took over one school in each of the four wards as part of a public system. Five years later the ward schools were abandoned in favour of a central school that, by virtue of its greater size, could offer graded classes and better facilities; the centralized Union School, designed by Toronto architect William Thomas, is charmingly commemorated in a painting by F.M. Bell-Smith. After an 1852 ruling made the schools free, the numbers of students so multiplied that the Union School proved too small, and ward schools were re-established.



Return from School by F.M. Bell-Smith (Canadian 1846-1923), showing the Union School. Courtesy London Public Library and Art Museum.

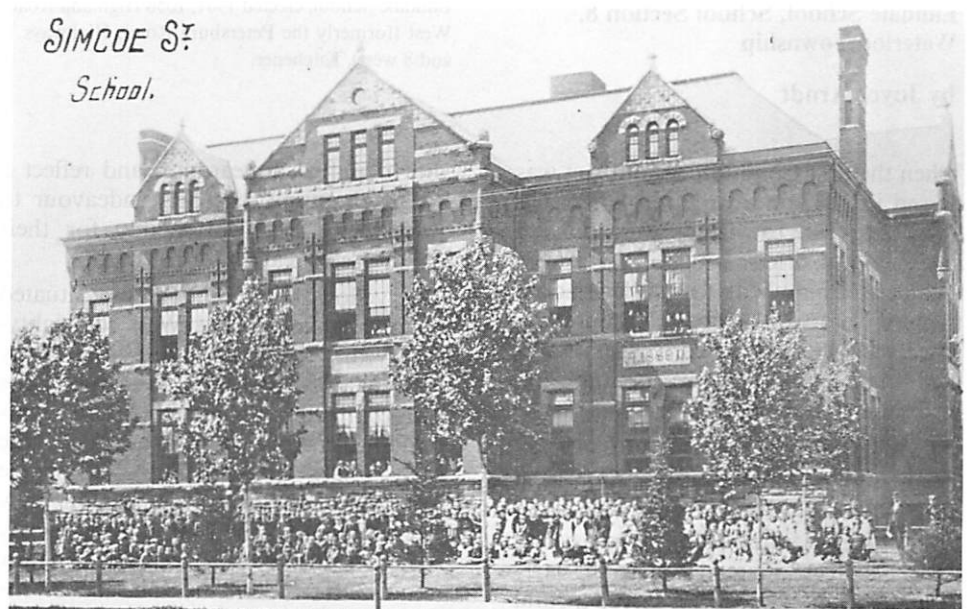
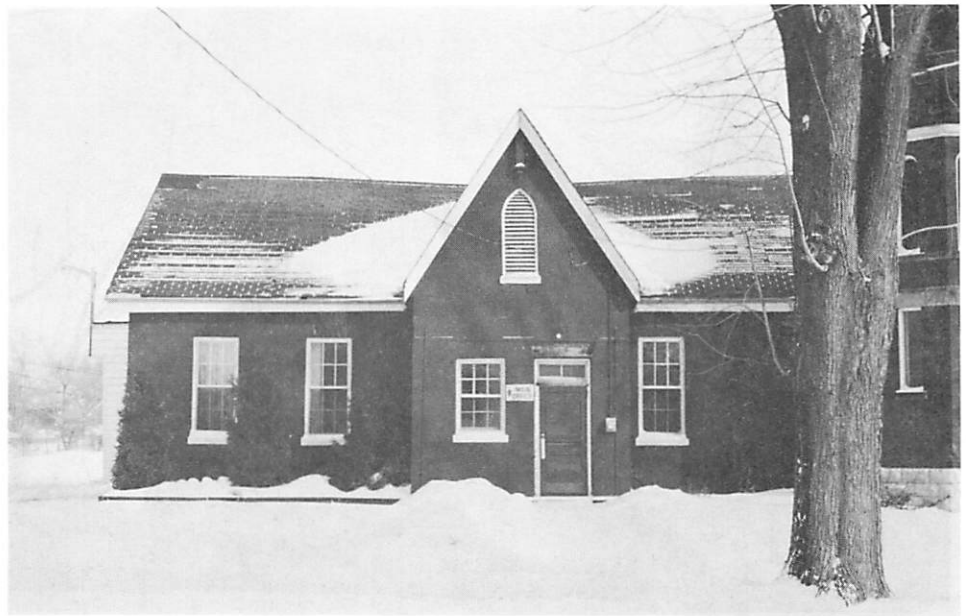
Beginning in the mid-fifties, several small ward schools were built under the supervision of the City Engineer, William Robinson. The shell of one of these schools still survives, as the office and education wing of the Beth Emmanuel Methodist Church. Its format seems to have been typical of the ward schools of this era. They were generally one-storey, symmetrical structures with a central gable over a projecting frontispiece, and with Gothic or Tudor decorative details. Even as these two-classroom buildings were replaced by larger structures later in the century, the general design of the city schools remained the same; they grew to be two storeys in height, and the Gothic detail assumed a High Victorian character, but the symmetry, the projecting frontispiece, and the central gable remained.

The most ambitious of these late nineteenth-century schools was the model Simcoe Street School erected in 1888 to the design of then City Engineer, Thomas E. Tracy. It was the first of the ward schools large enough to allow a return to graded classes, and both technical and aesthetic aspects of its design indicate the importance placed on good schooling. Class sizes were large by modern standards; there were "six commodious school rooms" (*London Advertiser*, October 29, 1888), each capable of seating eighty students. But, numerous though they might be, the students were to learn in an atmosphere most conducive to physical well-being. Seats were so arranged as "to follow the light to come into the room from the back and left only, which prevents cross lights, a feature which oculists allege is very detrimental to the eyesight of the scholar." The Smead heating and ventilating system, "recognized as the best on the continent," assured the "purity of the atmosphere" in a classroom by bringing in a constant supply of (freshly heated) outside air, so that the air in a room could be completely replaced ten times an hour. The building was faced with pressed red brick (which needed to be imported from elsewhere in Ontario), and brown Credit Valley stone which was used for its foundation window sills, and ornamental trim. So proud was the school board of its model school that the heads of the Chairman and ex-Chairman were sculpted in stone over the main archways, though the *Advertiser* was heavily cynical about the workmanship; "it would take a rather acute observer to recognize the faces of either of these gentlemen in the stone cutting."

Tracey and his partner, George F. Durand, also designed a new school for the separate school system during the 1880s. The plans showed a variation on the firm's usual school design in that they featured a central tower instead of a gable, and a third storey that provided a finishing crown to the less varied storeys below. This third storey was never actually built, but the tower was for many years a London landmark.

The Norman School

Of the many schools erected to teach London's children during the nineteenth century, only the single one-storey ward school remains. Fortunately, however, we still have one other monument to education surviving from that period; the London Normal School built in 1899, as the third Normal School to be established in the province. This striking Queen Anne building was discussed in an earlier edition of *Acorn* (IX.2), when its fate was a matter of serious concern. The School Board, which had for some years used the old school for its headquarters, had vacated the building in favour of new premises in a refurbished secondary school. Fortunately, the Separate School Board decided to buy the building for use as its administrative centre. Now beautifully restored, under the supervision of architect Carlos Ventin, the old Normal School forms an impressive memorial to London's long-standing interest in the education of its future citizens.



Top to Bottom:

An early Ward School, now attached to Beth Emmanuel Church.

Photo Nancy Tausky

The Simcoe Street Model School: a side view.

The London Normal School

Photo Nancy Tausky





**Elmdale School, School Section 8,
Waterloo Township**

by Joyce Arndt

When the first Common School Act was passed in 1842 and came into effect the following year, townships were divided into school districts, which in 1846 were renamed sections. With the new legislation, trustees were to be elected, school rates levied, schoolhouses erected, teachers examined and licensed, courses of study prescribed and the first government grant paid to rural schools.

The first school house for School Section 8 in Waterloo Township in Wellington District was a frame building measuring twenty-six feet square, dating to the early 1840s. This pioneer school served a rural population a few miles west of the small community of Berlin (Kitchener). When the original frame school house was sold, a stone building was erected in 1862 and used for forty-four years. The third school house for S.S. No. 8 was a yellow brick structure built in 1907 on one acre of land purchased from Christian Brubacher, adjacent to the lane on his property. The tall elms growing along the lane influenced a teacher's choice of the name Elmdale.

Architectural features of the schoolhouse include an octagonal, louvred bell tower at the front end of the gabled roof. An interesting projection of brickwork in the gables and columns at the sides is achieved by alternating buff and taupe coloured bricks. Contrasting bricks also trim doors and windows. The picture also shows a deep, cut fieldstone foundation to make possible a full basement. Overall, the symmetrical features create a handsome

Elmdale School, erected 1901, 1056 Highland Road West (formerly the Petersburg Road, Highways 7 and 8 west), Kitchener.

and dignified appearance, and reflect a rural community's proud endeavour to provide an excellent facility for their children's education.

The yellow brick schoolhouse situated along Highland Road West for eighty-two years exists no more. Not many residents of Kitchener, even west side suburbanities paid much attention to this building, since its closure as a school in the early 1960s. Consequently, few people were startled when a demolition crew arrived one day in March and quickly removed this conspicuous, yet mainly unnoticed structure by the side of the road.

Why was the schoolhouse demolished? Despite its inclusion in the inventory of historic buildings of the City of Kitchener (1980), the schoolhouse was not a designated structure. When the developer applied for a demolition permit, without knowing the school's historic and/or architectural significance, the City had no legal authority to withhold it. This all too common situation points up a developer's lack of knowledge about old buildings and interest in recycling them; it shows a failure by municipal government to inform developers about the presence of historic buildings and to promote multi-economic uses for them. Elmdale School might have been saved to become a viable component of the suburbs.

Acknowledgements:

Seibert, Emily L. *"Elmdale School History S.S. No. 8 Waterloo Township."* WHS vol. 46 (1958), 46-52.

From Elementary Education in the Early Years of Cambridge

by Jim Quantrell

With over forty elementary and secondary schools operated by the public and separate school boards located within the present confines of Cambridge, an education is available to anyone who wishes to pursue it. However, in the early years of our community, a quality education was not always available and those educational facilities that were present were not necessarily open to everyone.

Schooling in the area now encompassed by the boundaries of Cambridge is said to have had its start in 1802 in a log schoolhouse near Blair with the first teacher being a Mr. Rittenhaus. The record also mentions a small log school built in 1809 just north of Preston.

In those days schoolhouses were constructed of logs and paid for by donations from the local population. Since there was no funding from government sources, operating costs were met by fees charged to the parents of the children attending the school. Though the fees were generally small, they tended to limit schooling to those families which could afford them.

One of the earliest schools in Cambridge, about which we have information, is the school that later became known as Clearview School on Pinebush Road. This facility could trace its roots back to a meeting held on August 8, 1829 at which a local group decided to establish a school. A site was chosen on land owned by C.T. Groh and by 1830 the school was in operation with about thirty-six students each of whom paid twenty shillings a year to attend. The building was made of logs and had as its first teacher a Robert Bryden who was paid \$47.50 to teach for six months.

In 1848 the school was moved about a mile west to its Pinebush Road location where it was soon destroyed by fire. It was immediately replaced by another log school known as the Pinebush School and later named Clearview School No. 19. In 1874 the school was again rebuilt, this time at a cost of \$1,268 and, with the exception of a classroom added in 1952, remained essentially unchanged until it closed in 1965.

Galt

Schooling in Galt can also claim a rather early start. The first school in the settlement was a small building erected about 1828 by the settlers near the corner of Water and Dickson on a site now occupied by the Montreal Trust building. Some time

later a second school was opened at the west end of the Main Street bridge by James Dixon Sr. Mr. Dixon had been a teacher in Scotland and, upon his arrival, soon determined that bush farming was not to his liking and turned to his former profession. The fate of Mr. Dixon's school is unknown but it seems unlikely that it survived for long.

In 1832 a roughcast schoolhouse was built at the corner of Church (now Wellington) and Main.

In those days, school could be in session all year, although farm children were seldom in attendance over the summer months since their help was needed on the farm. The schools possessed no caretakers and no central heating. As a result the first girl to arrive at school in the morning was expected to wash down the floor and to sweep out the school. It was the duty of the first boy arrival to start the fire in the stove that was the sole source of heat during the cold winter months. Needless to say, this regimen did little to encourage early attendance.

In the late 1840s a branch line of the Great Western Railway was planned for Galt. It was soon clear that the best path for the rail line would run to within twelve to fourteen feet of the school endangering the lives of the children. Thus in 1849 a new stone school was erected on Dickson Street immediately to the east of the Township Hall. The site is now occupied by a parking lot between City Hall and the old fire hall on Dickson Street. This building was used as a school until Central School was built in 1856 and later found use as a vegetable and poultry market. The old school was transformed into a blacksmith's shop and the site is now occupied by Kirkham's Television and Appliances.

In 1855 the Galt School Trustees decided that the village should have a first class school. This was in keeping with their concept of Galt as an up and coming industrial town about to make a significant mark on Canada. In pursuit of this plan, the Trustees purchased a lot at the top of Main Street hill from James Harris for 750 British pounds. Unfortunately not all of the villagers shared the vision of the Trustees and public opinion divided into two camps each championed by one of the local newspapers. Opponents were appalled at the proposed cost of 5917 pounds and felt that the school was far beyond the immediate needs of the community.

After a somewhat bitter struggle, the money was made available, the school was built and, in the end, public opinion



Dickson School (Galt) 1877, extended 1894. Photo Summer 1982.

swung around in support of the new school.

Central School, which initially had eight classrooms and two gallery rooms, was designed to accommodate 512 students and opened officially as a free school in February, 1857.

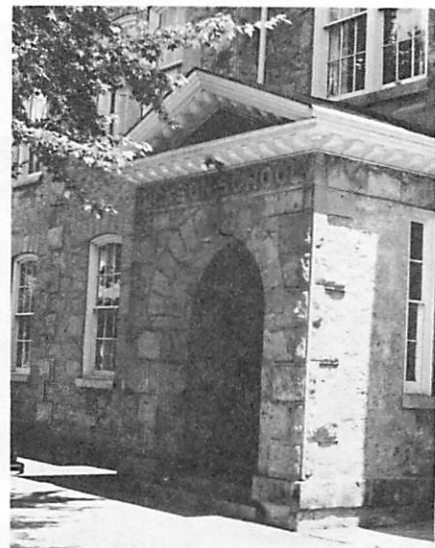
In 1905 Central School was enlarged as two more classrooms were added and in 1909 an additional six classrooms were built. By 1967 Central School had fifteen classrooms and 436 students. The old school was replaced by a new Central School built in 1969 beside the old school, which was then demolished.

As Galt continued to grow, it became apparent by the mid-1870s that a new primary school was needed on the west side of the Grand River. In 1876 a committee was formed to recommend a suitable site for the new school. This group approached William Dickson Jr., the son of Galt's founder, who agreed both to sell two lots for a school site for \$840 and to allow the new school to bear his name. Dickson School opened in August 1877 consisting of four classrooms and costing a total of slightly less than \$6,000 including the land and all furnishings. In 1894 the school was enlarged to eight rooms and by 1898 attendance at the school averaged 339 students.

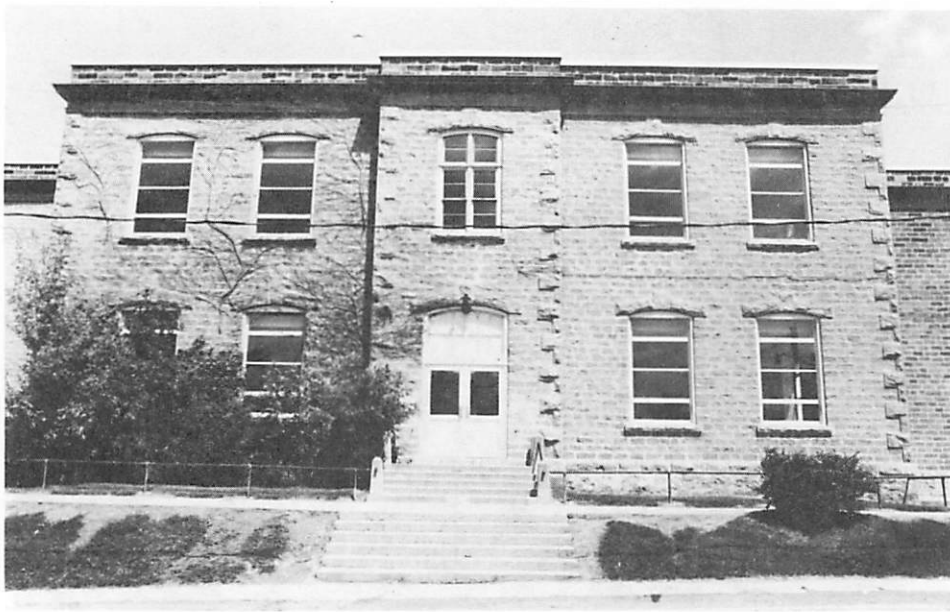
Although public education was the norm in the late nineteenth century, private schools were still in existence. One such was Miss Preston's School. It was located on the site at present occupied by the Post Office parking lot on Dickson Street and

during the 1870s appears to have served essentially as a finishing school where primarily young ladies were taught how to behave in fashionable society.

As that society and Galt continued to grow, a third public school was needed to accommodate the citizens in Galt's north end. In 1884 Victoria School was built on Oxford Street between Rose (now Roseview) and Bond Streets at a cost of about \$3,600. Although additions were built in 1886 and 1894, educational needs changed and by 1934 the school was perceived to be inadequate and too costly to renovate. Consequently, Victoria School was closed



Dickson School, detail of front entrance porch to St. Andrews Street. Photo Summer 1982.



Hespeler School 1882 with later additions; at 31 Kribs Street. Photo Summer 1982.

that year and its students transferred to other schools. The building was finally demolished in 1956 to make way for the Brewers' Retail Outlet that now occupies the site.

Probably the oldest extant building still used as a school in Cambridge is Maple Grove School. The land needed for the school was purchased from Henry Wanner in 1848 for \$1.00 and the original school was built in 1850. A wing, which has since been replaced, was added in 1875.

Hespeler

Formal education in the Village of Hespeler and Hespeler Public School can trace

their origins to the building of a three-room "L" shaped school erected on Kribs Street in 1854. Prior to this, Hespeler families sent their children to a schoolhouse two miles west of the settlement.

By 1882 the original school building was becoming overcrowded and increasingly outmoded. It was torn down to make room for a new and modern eight-room school building complete with central hot water heating. Further rooms were added at stages until by 1920 the school had fourteen rooms. Few changes were made after this and by the 1980s the "new and modern" Hespeler Public School erected in 1882 had become outmoded and was demolished in 1982. It was replaced by a



Preston Public School, 1889, 1891 with later additions. A view in its depressed state between school and senior citizens' housing conversion.

new Hespeler Public School built on Winston Boulevard.

Preston

Preston holds a special place of distinction in the annals of education in Ontario since it was here that the first free school in the province was established. Prior to this, a student's parents were required to pay a fee to the school for each child's education. The fees were not particularly high but were enough to exclude the children of lower income families in the community.

Preston's first school was established in 1839 with Abraham Speicher as its first teacher. A site was chosen at 849 Queen Street (now Queenston Road) and the school, which still stands as a private residence, was built. Within ten years Otto Klotz convinced the other trustees of the virtues of the free school concept and Preston Public School became a free school in 1848. Free schools did not become the norm in Ontario until 1871.

By 1852 it became apparent that a new school was needed. The trustees purchased one acre of land on Duke Street for \$190 and proceeded to erect a three-room brick school at a cost of \$1,580. The new Preston Central Public School was officially opened on May 28, 1853 and the Queenston Road school was sold, reportedly to Otto Klotz, for seventy-five pounds.

Over the years various changes were made to the school and in 1889 the original 1853 brick school house was demolished to make way for four classrooms which were faced with stone. Fire partially destroyed the school in 1891 with damage estimated at the time at \$1,950. Following the fire, a kindergarten room was added and the damaged part of the school rebuilt. As time passed, more land was accumulated and further rooms were added until by 1967 the school contained twenty rooms, and had twenty-one teachers and 630 students.

In 1974 the Waterloo County School Board decided to demolish the old school and replace it with two smaller schools. One of them was to be built on the same site and the other was to go in a new subdivision. This plan met with fierce opposition from local heritage groups. After a long, bitter and emotional struggle, a new Preston Public School was built on adjacent land in 1979 and the old school was converted during 1980/81 to a senior citizens' apartment complex.*

*Achieved under the direction of architect and Heritage Cambridge member, Gerry Musselman.

Britannia School Farm The Miracle of Mississauga

One most heartwarming oasis in the spreading desert of development in The Toronto-centred west seems more strange as one examines the circumstances of its survival. But thank heaven it is there as demonstrable reminder of Mississauga's agricultural heritage represented by the former rural area of Toronto Township. The subject is Britannia School Farm, Lot 3, Concession 1 west of Hurontario Street (Highway 10 between Port Credit on Lake Ontario and Owen Sound on Georgian Bay.). The property, still almost its original full 200 acres less sundry snippets such as road widenings, is still there on the west side of the highway just south of Britannia Road, now between Matheson Boulevard West and Bristol Road West just opened up between north-south line roads.

This lot remained unclaimed for some time, perhaps because part of it was low-lying: a complaint about its unkempt state noted as "waste land", and the lack of improvement to the road in front, prompted an 1830 petition by a neighbouring farmer requesting its grant. Nothing materialized apparently from this. Shortly after, however, the trustees of the local school, Wm. Thompson, the Rev. McGrath as clerk and Joseph Gardner, were granted the 200 acres by William IV in 1833, to be held in trust for the purposes of education. The idea was that the farm, and the rents therefrom, would sustain the school. A schoolhouse was constructed on the north-east corner, on a one-acre lot. Another acre was reserved for a cemetery, but this was never consummated. The farm remained intact, owned ultimately by School Section No. 12 of Toronto Township and known as Britannia School from the cross roads community of that name christened by the Post Office of the mid-nineteenth century. The church on the east side nearer Britannia Road still marks the core of a once-prosperous farming hamlet now virtually obliterated by a mammoth commercial and industrial swath beneath the noisy flight path of Pearson International Airport at Malton. Several fine farmhouses once occupied sites nearby, only three or four have survived, two still in grave danger, one on the farm itself and another, the Chisholm/Gardner/Dunton House, just moved from Lot 5 to the north.

The original schoolhouse of the 1830s was reported to have been in very poor condition in 1851. By 1852 it appears to have



PJS Photo

been the opposite and possibly renewed about that time. The latter year is now ascribed to the polychromed brick structure on the site, a building which, with its "white" brick labels and eyebrows of dogtoothed form corresponds stylistically with other buildings dated in the mid 1870s at the earliest. In fact there may have been an intermediate structure, perhaps serving from the 1850s to the 1870s, but more about this supposition later. The present building was designated by the City of Mississauga in 1978 and underwent considerable refurbishing of its interior about that time. Now it serves the Peel Board of Education as its demonstration of the old days in a one-room schoolhouse for elementary grades: classes come from across the region to be taught for a few hours or so the rudiments of earlier education, the three Rs not the least. This must be quite a contrast to today's schooling.

For all the years the farm helped provide for the upkeep of the school. Barns and outbuildings including a driveshed and a tenant house were constructed, all but the last two have been taken down. The driveshed will be re-used as part of the farmyard complex to be developed from Landplan's master plan and demonstrated to illustrate farming operations as part of the education of the new urbanities populating the region.

View of Britannia School from the south-east and its modern neighbour to the north, H.J.A. Brown Education Centre, headquarters of the Peel Board of Education designed by Shore Tilbe Henschel Irwin Peters, Architects and Engineers.

The tenant house is being renovated to provide a residence and office for the farm manager. This polychromed brick veneer, storey-and-a-half building with steep roof and gables adorned with bargeboards is possibly of the late 1870s or early 1880s and may have been built just after the reconstruction of the school for it shares the "white" brick later detail of the latter but more simply rendered with a plain rather than a dogtoothed band to window labels. Vacated about 1970 the house had not been heated in the interval and architectural vandals, common in the Toronto-centred region, had exerted their toll. Current work, necessarily more drastic, has, however, revealed some particularly interesting information. For instance, the rear wing was found to be a very early post-and-beam-bent frame,¹ well braced and extraordinarily heavy for so small a building. This obviously pre-dated the brick veneer section and had been modified to raise the ceiling. Could this have been the frame of the first schoolhouse, recycled as any God-fearing and penny-pinching school trustees would have practised? Regrettably the wing proved so dilapidated that reconstruction was decided upon, but the old frame has been salvaged for later use.

¹ A series of bents or frames comprising wall posts at either end joined by a beam supporting the floor above.



Early hewn post-and-beam bent frame to wing of farmhouse at Britannia School Farm: lower beam at right end in original position.

Obtaining bricks for repair of the veneer proved another difficulty until some oversized Queenston Red ² turned up at Mason's Supply Ltd. in Malton. "White" bricks were donated for repair by Burnstein's Brick of St. Catharines. Attempts to obtain authentic original material from the "lone ranger" wedged in the concrete spaghetti of the 403 extension on the

western edge of Mississauga proved how sticky a designation can be, but that is quite another story.

However one other interesting fact came to light when the internal finishes were removed from the Britannia School farmhouse, namely that the 1" by 6" rough sheathing applied to the studs below the brick veneer, and some of the roof boards also, were re-used material too. From the distinct plaster line some 1/2" wide along one edge this was obviously from a sawmill plank building constructed of stacked boards offset to provide a key for plaster internally and stucco or roughcast externally.³ Again, was this from the second schoolhouse of the 1850s? Further and more detailed research is called for, but such detail may not have been recorded unfortunately. Current renovations are by VS Woodworking of Mississauga, the design and construction by the planning section of the Peel Board of Education.

Even more fascinating is the recent removal of the handsome two-storey, five-bay, brick farmhouse from its original site nearby to the north on Lot 5, Concession

1 WHS, to a corresponding setting, mercifully set further back from the highway where progressive widening had so compromised its original situation. The so-called Chisholm/Gardner/Dunton House was designated by the City in 1987 and stood to be hemmed in, and possibly drastically altered, in the midst of a rapidly growing "business park" until the developer Cantay Holdings and the Orlando Corporation offered to relocate it on the Britannia School Farm. So it was raised, trundled down Highway 10 on Sunday, 5 November, 1989 about a kilometre by Cec Abra Building Movers, from Mount Brydges, who have been in charge of constructing also its new foundation. Consultants for this work and the reconstruction of the storey-and-a-half kitchen wing, and its single storey stone summer kitchen extension to the rear, are R.E. Winter Associates with Brian Jeffs directing the project, assisted in historic architectural details by the writer.

However there is one part in the history of the house which bears re-examination, namely its title, the Chisholm/Gardner/Dunton House and the date assumed for its construction, namely c. 1832, when it was sold by Chisholm to Gardner,⁴ the farm having accrued considerably in value signifying a substantial improvement, such as the construction of a house. But stylistically it is of the later 1830s at the earliest and more like c. 1840, with its flat ovolo profile for much of the trim. Functionally, too, with almost total reliance on stoves for heating and cooking it is unlikely to be before 1835⁵ in that area. The supposition was based on the increase in value represented in the later transaction: however there existed on the original site a smaller, and earlier, brick house ⁶ which could

² Manufactured by a subsidiary of National Sewer Pipe and mentioned under Sources in Acorn XIV-2.

³ An example of the construction, now exposed, can be seen in a small house on Derry Road West in the Village of Meadowvale not far away: there were a great many in villages and hamlets along the Credit River and elsewhere in the 1840s and 50s.

⁴ Crown Grant 1825 to Bowns
Chisholm 1825-32
Gardner 1832-1882
Dunton 1882-1965

⁵ Willowbank, the Alexander Hamilton House in Queenston, had only stoves when built in 1834: Hamilton was an agent for stoves.

⁶ This was torn down some years ago, but had a complement of farm buildings also.

have been such an improvement. Perhaps Chisholm started the new house, but did not continue. But it would seem more likely that Joseph Gardner ⁷ was the owner responsible for its building a few years later. The Gardners owned a considerable acreage round about, and the Britannia area had been familiarly known as Gardner's Corners. Incidentally the Peel Atlas of 1877 shows the sketch of the Joseph Gardner farm which occupied the south-east corner of the Britannia cross roads, namely Lot 5 EHS: the house was a five-bay form downstairs, three-bay front upstairs. Other details included a bow-roofed verandah and, barely visible, bracketed eaves, the latter with the three bays upstairs signifying the raising of the roof of an earlier one-and-a-half storey structure. Presumably Joseph, by then, had moved, but another generation was in the house on the west side of the highway. However if Joseph Gardner was the builder of the house relocated on the Britannia School Farm then presumably this is the home of one of the original trustees, a pleasant coincidence indeed.

Removal of the later front porch built by the Dunton family earlier in this century has revealed the signs of a smaller porch, possibly with column supports, gracing the front entrance. The outline can be seen in paint on the brickwork and above the entrance is a wood beam serving as a lintel, and this and the brickwork, not carefully constructed in the Flemish bond of the front, were always intended to be hidden. The house has some of its original shutters, in a combination with fixed louvres in the upper panel, movable ones below. Front windows are their original configuration of six panes over six. Curiously side and rear windows are nine panes over six giving a somewhat older appearance to the building. The house is clearly a transitional design indicating the experimentation starting in the 1840s when older traditions in design and function were being challenged. However the plan is more circumspect, a generous central hall with simple staircase, the balustrade with scroll and cage at the lower end, the trim the most elaborate in the house. Front rooms are generous parlours with plaster cornices, the best parlour with Greek eared trim like the best bedroom upstairs, but slightly more elaborate.

In the basement area the kitchen fireplace, mainly constructed of local shale, some provided by Canada Brick's McFarren yard and some salvaged from the original site, and the brick bread oven, a capacious



Chisholm/Gardner/Dunton House on the move, 5 November 1989, as it prepares to leave Highway 10

for its new site, after passing Britannia School to the right.

"beehive" of some 3' - 6" deep by 4' - 6" wide, has just been reconstructed. Three Acadians, originally from New Brunswick, Rejean Pelletier, Gilles Doucette as masons, helped by Marcel Godin, did the job, their first experience of such historic construction, not often, if ever, to be repeated. But the first smoke test proved how satisfactory their construction was.

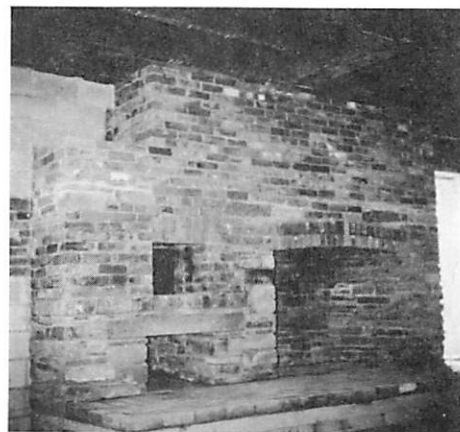
Curiously the basement contained the only fireplace in the house, obviously intended as the original kitchen or maybe as a supplementary arrangement for the wing obviously became the principal cooking area. The slight sidehill position of the house provided this opportunity, of course, with the basement barely half-buried on the south end. However the rest of the house was very up to date and was heated entirely by stoves.

Although the wing was seriously damaged by fire about 1970, after the last farming owner had sold it in 1965 to speculators, and had to be demolished, fortunately the Duntons, Douglas and his son Earl and families, had not only vivid memories of it, but even more conclusive evidence, namely photographs. Combined with outlines surviving on the back of the house corroborated by excavations at critical points on the site this information enabled a fairly reasonable restoration of the original design to be made and the reconstruction of the wing will be undertaken in the coming spring and summer.

The last inhabitant of the house was John Ellis who occupied it until it was vacated in 1988: previously he had lived on and for many years worked the Britannia School Farm. Mr. Ellis still keeps in touch and visits to inspect progress like other farming colleagues such as Ben Madill who grew up together when Toronto Township was still a farming community.

Small rooms, mainly bedrooms were at the back of house, but access to the kitchen and function of the adjoining

⁷ Various spelt Gardener, Gardiner and Gardner, the last now generally accepted.



Basement fireplace, bakeoven and ashpit reconstructed.

PJS Photos

room are still a little puzzling. The wing, an ell extension to the north end in effect, is two steps lower than the main block. Three doorways lead from its east end, one into a small room adjoining and connecting to the grander room forward, a second leading to the basement under the main house, a third to the hall, the last believed to have been the internal route to the dining parlour considered to be the use of the south-east room, slightly less elaborately treated than its counterpart across the hall. Originally two bedrooms occupied the space in the south-west quarter, one entered from the dining parlour likely used as a guest room, the other from the hall also giving access to a closet⁸ under the main stair.

The wing had another interesting feature, for the west end of its porch sheltering the exit from the back of the centre hall was originally filled in to serve a pantry opening off the kitchen. The summer kitchen, constructed of fieldstone was obviously an economy measure but also signified the changing function of a house where a stove, used for cooking, would be moved into such a room to keep the main building cooler and incidentally the kitchen less cluttered for serving meals to the great many hands employed in haying and harvesting. Because of the architectural interest of the house and its demonstration of the use of a farmhouse representative of this part of Peel the Board of Education plans to use it as a historic house display, closely related to the barn complex to be developed nearby as part of the master plan.

Since the barns originally on the site were considered neither appropriate nor economical to retain, representative structures

suitable for their replacement have been sought on lands in the area slated for impending development. Most of these occupied a 5000-acre strip to the north end of Brampton. Others were located in the fringes of Mississauga, another in Vaughan and one in the eastern outskirts of Oakville. Some thirty or so structures were pinpointed, more than half of these photographed and reported on in more detail, some described as possible candidates for Britannia School Farm. Basically two barn types were noted, a barnyard complex of separate smaller, on-grade structures arranged around a south-facing courtyard, a notable one on the Maddill/Brown Farm nearby regrettably earmarked for other purposes, and various bank types with hayloft over a stable area. The latter was considered more representative of the mid and later history of farming in the area. Most checked were reconstructions of earlier barn frames in such an arrangement, but three particularly notable examples all constructed of sawn timber, represented late nineteenth original structures of the type, two north of Bramalea representing a single and Siamese twin version by the same framer. The first choice, however, has been a magnificent harvest hall in Oakville, long disused as farm barn, but kept in shape by Sheridan Nurseries and offered to the Peel Board of Education in response to its request for a barn for Britannia School Farm. The Sheridan Nurseries building, known as the Conover Barn, is an awe-inspiring "cathedral" internally, a lofty, sparse frame of hardwood, believed to be beech, over a high stable area walled in attractive river stone. The *pièce de résistance* is a circular drum stair between stable area and hayloft, a most unusual feature for a functional agricultural structure.

All these buildings and other complementary outbuildings are at the hub of a comprehensive master plan prepared by The Landplan Collaborative Ltd. of Guelph one of whose principals, Owen Scott, member of ACO's Advisory Board and guest editor for our last Acorn issue, plays a vital role in its design and implementation. The translation of needs of the project, the accommodation of uses and interpretation have resulted in a definitive document comprising plan, report and study. The scheme preserves not only the farm and the school but even a section of the right-of-way of the regrettably abandoned Toronto to Guelph electric railway, part of Southern Ontario's comprehensive transportation network in the early twentieth century. The master plan was recently honoured by a citation in Urban Design Awards given by the City of Mississauga.

Landplan's Britannia Farm Master Plan, submitted in April 1989, was approved by the Peel Board of Education in June of that year. The document comprises over 100 pages including plans, diagrams, photographs and appendices. The contents cover an introduction noting a report from the *ad hoc* Britannia Farm Review Committee, the goals and objectives of the study and methodology, physical resources and existing conditions, program for development and use, opportunities and constraints, the master plan and its design concept, the activities, facilities and management envisaged, and also implementation and phasing. All these aspects are accompanied by plans including a location diagram related to its local context. Various references are made to sources of background material, particularly historical, agricultural, education and conservation matters. This is followed by various appendices such as the work program for the master plan study, a list of contacts made by Landplan in their formulation of the plan, status reports on buildings, namely the existing and proposed houses on the site, concerns about agricultural/environmental educational issues, other facilities and programs as well as the essential financial information regarding possible program assistance and the 1989 capital and operating budget.

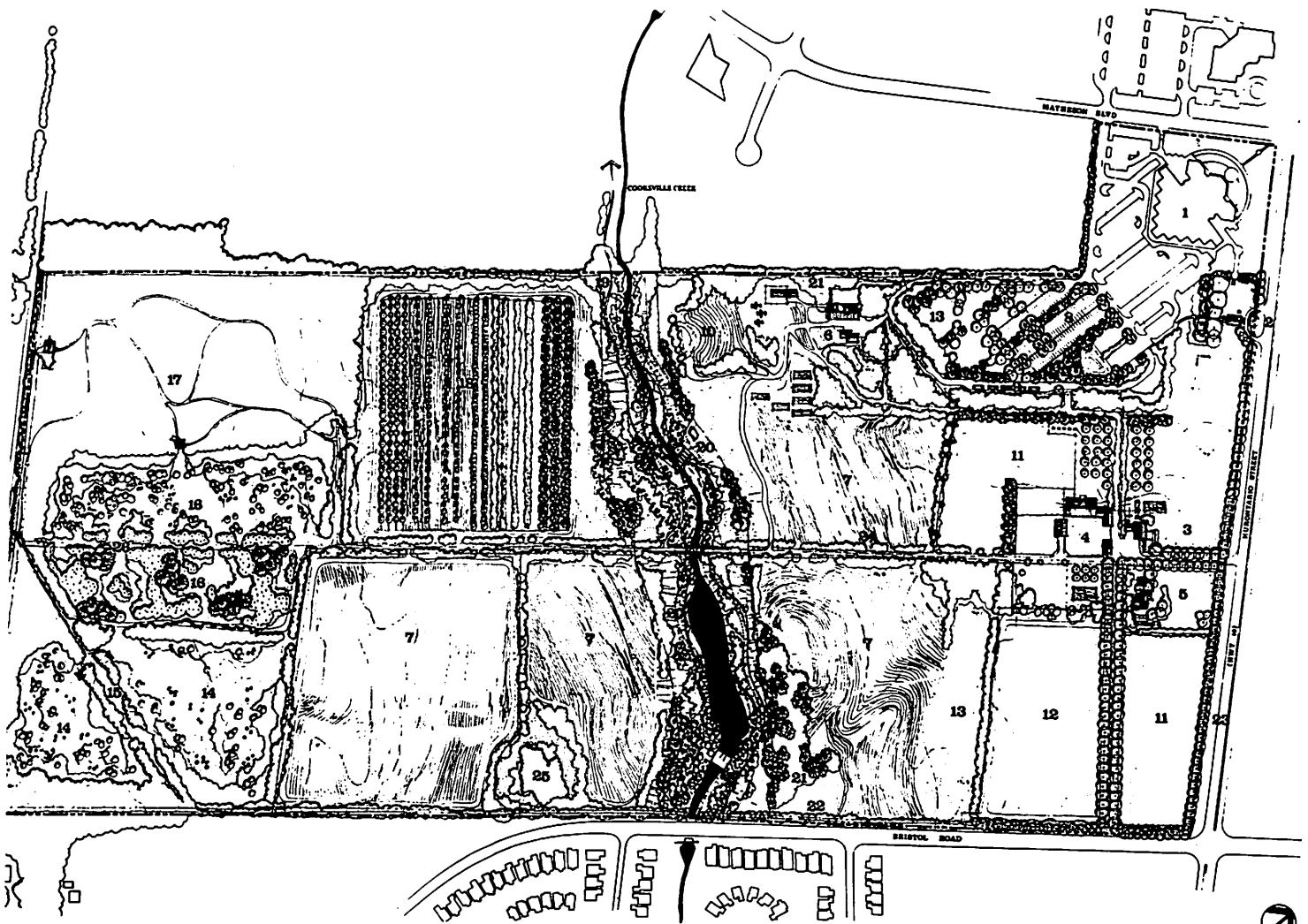
The development plan illustrated here is a comprehensive design of the site effectively combining the many and varied natural features of the farm which is bisected east-west by the upper reaches of Cooksville Creek flowing southwards towards Lake Ontario. An existing sugar bush, already used for demonstration purposes, occupies the north-west corner of the farm. Adjacent to it on the south and in the west end both managed and natural regenerations occur with the radial right of way between. An agroforestry section is located to the north side west of the creek and provides a demonstration of afforestation, intercropping, Christmas tree production and landscape nursery, the last for the Board's other sites also. The creek swale is bordered by wetland and pond interpretation and on both sides will be agricultural demonstration fields. The remainder of the site is made up of grassed meadows, pasture and a few acres of garden plots, for many years a feature of the property like the railside allotments once so common in Britain.



Conover Barn, Oakville from the north-west.

PJS Photos

⁸ In a New Brunswick house of the 1860s such a closet was designated as the Preserve Hole by markings on the back of the trim.



DEVELOPMENT PLAN BRITANNIA FARM MASTER PLAN

For The Peel Board of Education, Mississauga, Ontario

By The Landplan Collaborative Ltd., Guelph, Ontario

LEGEND:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1: H.J.A. Brown Education Centre | 14: Natural Succession |
| 2: Britannia Schoolhouse | 15: Radial Railway Interpretation |
| 3: Gardner/Dunton House | 16: Managed Succession |
| 4: Barnyard Complex | 17: Sugar Bush - Mature Woodlot |
| 5: Farm Manager's House | 18: Agroforestry Plantation |
| 6: Field Centre | 19: Riparian Forest |
| 7: Agricultural Demonstration Fields | 20: Wetland/Creek/Pond Interpretation |
| 8: Parking | 21: Vegetative Buffer |
| 9: Bus Drop-Off and Lay-By Area | 22: Mixed Hedgerow Planting |
| 10: Assembly Area | 23: Traditional Roadside Tree Planting |
| 11: Pasture | 24: Farm Lane |
| 12: Community Garden Plots | 25: Moist Meadow |
| 13: Grassed Meadow | 26: Extension of Farm Lane |

The H.J.A. Brown Education Centre is beyond the farm at its north-east corner, but parking areas spill over behind the Britannia Schoolhouse. The route for the school buses from Matheson Boulevard to the north will pass around the extended parking area to give access to the field centre east of the creek. A mid-farm lane extends east-west through the property and will be retained as the historical and ceremonial way into the farm from Hurontario Street. However because of the hazardous condition traffic now presents the principal entrance will be from Matheson Boulevard, a subsidiary and more private access from Bristol Road to the south with a secondary north-south connecting lane, tree-lined, leading past the Britannia farmhouse and between the proposed barn complex and the relocated Gardner/Dunton House.

Many details are still to be worked out but several components are proceeding including farmhouse renovation, Gardner/Dunton House restoration, fencing and soon servicing. Arrangements for barn relocation will be put in hand shortly and further details of that aspect of the project developed with Hugh McPherson in charge of Field Centres and concerned with programs and interpretation. No doubt committee members' comments will be sought, especially from those recently

retired in the farming community so rapidly disappearing beneath rabid construction. Throughout this project one who has maintained a very keen and active interest is John Greeniaus, Chief Planning Officer for the Board, whose ancestral home was Sheridan, a hamlet now erased from the map by the Queen Elizabeth Way, Winston Churchill Boulevard and, of course, modern development.

Britannia School Farm, 200 acres granted in 1833 by the Crown for educational purposes, maintained by the Trustees of School Section 12 of Toronto Township, assumed by the Peel Board of Education which, despite repeated suggestions that it sell the property for development for very good reason always put too great a price on this invaluable heritage. Two hundred acres of open space, and another dimension to Peel's Education - Britannia School Farm, the miracle in Mississauga.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Margles, minus the latter day mutilations, and restoration promised. Another of Cobourg's handsome mid-Victorian King Street West commercial blocks comes back to life.

The scant note about Cobourg in the last *Acorn* failed to do justice to the current heritage scene in our town. In addition to the sympathetic replacement for the battered and seamy old British hotel condescendingly mentioned, we have other projects worthy of note underway.

The Market Building designed by Kivas Tully is being completely and painstakingly restored under the eye of restoration architect Jon Hobbs and with strong financial assistance from the Kinsmen Club of Cobourg. This will complete the restoration of the three components of Victoria Hall Square.

Trinity United Church, once the collegiate church of the old Victoria College, is in the midst of a very large restoration project, involving spire, tower, roof and masonry. The architects overseeing this work are Carley and Phillips. It has been exciting to watch details emerge (weather-vane, small turrets etc.) which have not been seen for generations.

And anyone who is familiar with the main street of Cobourg will rejoice with us locals that Bruce Margles, now the owner of the building in which his clothing store is housed, has removed the inappropriate metal sheathing from its façade, and in the spring intends to proceed with restoration. In spite of the sprouting of a mall on our western outskirts, we feel good about the heightened awareness of heritage issues in Cobourg.

Marion and Charles Hagen



King Street view of Hoffman-Simmons building

New building at the north-west corner of George Street and King Street West, Cobourg: in the flesh, or is it the pink? or both?

QUINTE REGION

Carrying Place

For its July Architectural Walking Tour the Quinte Region Branch visited Carrying Place. This hamlet straddles the boundary line between Northumberland County and Prince Edward County. The road that forms the boundary line itself is the route of the old portage from the Bay of Quinte to Weller's Bay on Lake Ontario, and it is this that our group traversed on July 16.

From pre-historic times this must have been familiar ground to travellers from several directions. A bare stretch of smooth rock is pointed out as being where teams of Indians meeting from east and west will have put down their canoes and engaged in a game of lacrosse. The seventeenth-century Kente mission from France seems to have been close by.

It was here that the 1787 Gunshot Treaty was "signed", by which the Indians ceded the site of Toronto to the British.

Some early settlers are said to have expected the strategic Carrying Place to become the capital of Upper Canada.

Though it was not built till a century after that, the Murray Canal (a little north of Carrying Place, and worth seeing in itself) was considered from the beginning, as shortening and protecting shipping routes, both commercial and military. The Weller family, early settlers at Carrying Place, are said to have made a business of dragging boats on rollers across the mile-and-three-quarter isthmus, which our intrepid group of sixty or more architecture buffs walked, on this sunny July day.

The hamlet of Carrying Place has a post office and two churches and a township playing ground. Besides the general store there is a second-hand car lot and a school bus business. The neat almost-new red brick school on the corner was sold and now serves as a 'flea market'. Highway 33 used to make a dogleg through the town, but now it has been punched straight through, and what was swampy woods is now a ribbon development of new, small, mismatched houses.

Now outstanding about Carrying Place are the electric poles and communications towers that have congregated in the area. Soaring radio towers in town and a mile or two to the south with little lights on top give an eerie, disorienting, effect to the night-time traveller.

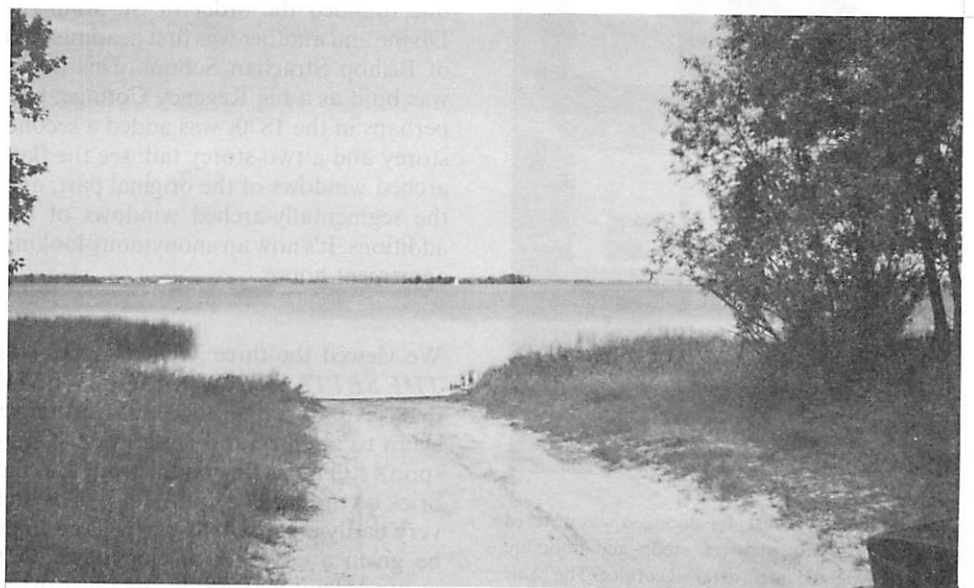


Carrying Place: entrance from the south, complete with modern impedimenta.

There is a transformer station, of course, and naturally the railroad goes through this narrow neck of land. One might expect Prince Edward County's main electric service to follow the railroad right-of-way, as it used to do, but with great determination Ontario Hydro have moved their wires to Highway 33, the Loyalist Parkway, for the utmost in accessibility and visibility.

For travellers from Toronto and the west via Brighton (and this must be the historic and original route), as well as from Trenton

and the east, Carrying Place has to be the ugliest hamlet of its size anywhere. It is the western gateway to the Loyalist Parkway, the only land approach to Prince Edward County, and officials of both agencies have to cringe in shame. But who is there that knows enough of the right people, from the federal government on down through the premier and Ontario Hydro, to get things set right? Even Ameliasburgh Township's night-time lighting poles on the playing field are part of the problem.



Carrying Place: the eastern portage overlooking Bay of Quinte: historic idyll.



Weller/Quinn House, Carrying Place, the south front.

Lest readers get the wrong impression, we have to say that the above represents an automobilist's view. Carrying Place appeared rather attractive and desirable to our group of foot-passengers treading the historic portage from east to west. At the Bay of Quinte end, which now does not have through traffic, there is a lovely suburb with well-cared for houses of every age and size, and ambitious new houses filling in.



Weller/Germain House: the doorcase was restored previously but the shutters, stoop and door are modern. Note the finely detailed cornice. The gable fan would have had the "glass" painted a dark colour.

Photos by R. Greig

A note by the way: If present-day builders would just look towards the western end of the Carrying Place at the famous and classically inspired houses built by the early settlers nearly two centuries ago, they would not have any taste for log cabins.

We glanced at the large and substantial white-painted brick house that was the Anglican rectory, behind its thick hedge of lilac, where the Rev. Mr. Grier, brother-in-law of the Rev. Mr. Wm. Macaulay of Picton, entertained cultured visitors from far and near, including Napoleon's physician from St. Helena, we believe, and brought up his notable family, of whom one founded the order of St. John the Divine and another was first headmistress of Bishop Strachan School. This house was built as a big Regency Cottage, but, perhaps in the 1870s was added a second storey and a two-storey tail: see the flat-arched windows of the original part, and the segmentally-arched windows of the additions. It's now an anonymous-looking apartment house.

We viewed the three Weller houses (see *THE SETTLER'S DREAM*, p. 341-344) that give Carrying Place its justifiable claim to architectural fame. Mrs. Klingspon's still looks fine on the front, but the brick on the back or south side is decaying very badly and she tells us it will perhaps be given a covering of clapboard. Our group did not look inside, but you can see a photo of the delicately reeded parlour mantel in *THE ANCESTRAL ROOF*.

The nine-window front on this and several other houses in our area is the chief mark of the "Loyalist" style as we know it, and denotes a Yankee connection, as anyone who has visited Vermont, or New Hampshire or New York State will realize. Brother Jonathan was addicted to windows and always put in a great many. Houses with a merely British flavour are more likely to have only one window to a room.

The Weller-Quinn brick house on the north-east corner of the road from Carrying Place to Brighton is seldom noticed, though it has the nine-window front too and is said to date from as early as 1808. It will have had four chimneys, with half-elliptical ornaments between. The door was four feet wide, we are told, with no side lights, though the fan light above is said to be original. The spacious hall is well proportioned; chair-rails and simple tapering newel-post of rectangular section are still there; the delicately reeded mantel in the left parlour is still in place, but the more elaborate one from the right-hand parlour was sold a few years ago and is now replaced with a good-looking simpler one. The distinctive brick kitchen wing with its vast shady overhang was recently demolished, unfortunately; but it was not integral with the original structure. Oddly, for a "Loyalist" style house with nine-window front, there seem to have been only two openings in the back: a central door and a window above it. Windows are rather narrow in proportion, and the remnant of this upper-back window suggests that they all had nine-over-nine panes.

The other Weller-Quinn brick house, on the south or Prince Edward side of the road, is probably the best known. Like the Barnum House at Grafton, it has (or had) a central classical pavilion with symmetrical wings.¹ The fact that the doorway is central would put it more in the category of this area's "temple" style houses of about 1840 (see the Demorestville section of *THE SETTLER'S DREAM*) except that the trim here is more delicate than the Greek Revival and would suggest a date more like 1820. Anyway, perhaps it also served as a tavern, which would account for its undomestic peculiarities, and the present use of the front rooms as an art gallery seems entirely suitable. The Quinns rebuilt the right-hand wing, retaining the original cupboard-filled end wall, with the

¹ B. Napier Simpson used this house for his measured drawing exercise.

DURHAM REGION

Although the Branch itself is showing relatively little activity currently it should be noted that the Durham Region is one of those fast-developing areas on the periphery of Metropolitan Toronto which continues to suffer from the rapid pace of inexorable change. The area has been buffeted by all manner of pressures, from the location of regional garbage dumps, to the day-to-day expansion of urban development. However this is not all. The continual threat to the Rouge Valley shared with Metro along Durham's western boundary is emphasized by the decision to extend a landfill site near Whitevale, that historic and rather charming village in the Town of Pickering. Nearby, in the Town

of Ajax, a further study of the eastern part of the old village of Pickering's main street is in the works to try to determine the historical and architectural significance and relative merit of the building stock there.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications is initiating a study, mainly across the Durham Region, for the new Highway 407 corridor, the highway to extend across the northern end of Metro Toronto and already a well-established concept to the west. This latest study relates to the connection between Markham oad and the Highway 35 and 115 intersection just north of Kirby. The corridor affects a huge swath of the mid section of the region which may have a

considerable effect upon not only the rural landscape, but many fascinating communities such as Brougham, Brooklin and Tyrone which the path of the highway may impinge upon. The Durham Region Branch is enviably situated to participate in the examination and we would hope to get together ourselves and with others similarly concerned to help the deliberations of the Ministry in their identification and protection of both the built, and man-made and natural landscape heritage.

PJS

TORONTO REGION

A.C.T., Newsletter of the Toronto Region Architectural Conservancy is an excellent publication, but it is also a considerable task to put it together. If Acorn does not make its plea properly, then voluntary effort is not always spared for it. A copy of A.C.T., however, should be spared for every Branch office so that members beyond Toronto can learn of the largest branch's activities, and at least, have a copy on file. This still does not do Acorn and its readers justice nevertheless. So to include something of what Toronto Region has of interest we glean the following.

Noted in the recently Advisory Board report by Howard Chapman are interesting descriptions by Terry Carter of the New-market houses and industrial building under investigation. Also in the May 1989 issue considerable support for restoration of Eaton's College Street Auditorium and Round Room, the former restaurant, on the seventh floor was evident with over 1500 names registered.

The Pearse House, a storey-and-a-half, multi-gabled, mid-Victorian building in Scarborough Rouge River watershed, was under study with a view to its preservation. Of particular interest is the reverse polychroming of the brickwork where red brick is used for plinth, large flush quoins and arches, against a "white" or buff brick ground.

A further issue of a questionnaire: regarding heritage concerns in major urban centres and prepared by Alec Keefer and Joshua Wolfe in October 1988 was soliciting comment and response: the results of this Preservation Action Survey will be printed in a future summary.

Toronto's Art Deco contributions to architecture were explored further in A.C.T.'s September 1989 issue. Various events provided activities of interest including a dissertation of the evolution of Osgoode Hall by Angela Carr followed by a walking tour up University Avenue conducted by Alec Keefer. The B. Napier Simpson Jr. Memorial Lectures in October and November concerned the restoration of the Pantages Theatre, particularly its plaster decoration and paint selections, following an earlier tour of the project. Comparison of the Art Deco interior of the seventh floor of the Eaton's College Street store

with its sister design on the ninth floor of Montreal's St. Catherine Street Eaton's, both created by the same French collaborators (in design that is), namely René Céra and Jacques Carlu. Although the Montreal example still functions it is no longer pristine, so far as its original decor is concerned though still readily recognizable and not consigned to obscurity and deterioration like Toronto's.

Angela Carr writes about the Toronto Hydro's two former headquarters structures, now threatened, and the later building's Art Deco connection.



Photo: G. Duncan, courtesy A.C.T.

Pearse House, a Rouge Valley landmark threatened. Fascinating reverse polychroming of brick is hidden by white paint.

In the November issue note is made of the City's refusal of the University's development proposal to demolish buildings, including an interesting group of late Victorian houses and two handsome early twentieth century low-rise apartment buildings standing at the north-west corner of Charles Street West and St. Thomas Street on the Victoria College campus. Opposition to the scheme was spearheaded by Victoria College students. The Music Building designed by George Gouinlock at the CNE, ravaged by fire, seems to have had a reprieve, thanks to the initiative of the Toronto Historical Board and strong leadership shown by Metro Councillor Derwyn Shea and Sam (the Record Man) Sniderman.

Fame and Fortune: The Urban Impact of Frame Technology was the title of an article by A.M. de Fort-Ménaires in November's A.C.T. too. The author traces the development of frame construction from heavy timber framing to light stud struc-

tures in a brief summary which does not give sufficient scope for discussion of the variants and details of the former, but concentrates more on the latter, chosen as the more representative of urban construction periods, particularly the rapid spurts in building after the mid-nineteenth century. Interesting to note here, however, is that reference is made to the balloon frame first appearing in 1833 in St. Mary's Church in Chicago; another known example was by Acadians building a house c. 1824 in Caraquet, New Brunswick.

Considerable concern has been voiced by the Toronto Region Branch to the OMB decision approving the development encroachment upon the site of the Stephen Leacock House in Orillia despite local objection. The OMB naturally sided with the city, the municipality apparently not cognizant of its custodial trust. A.C.T. quotes Leacock's own words: "I never realized that there was history, so close at hand, beside my very home. I did not

realize that the old grave that stood among the brambles at the foot of our farm was history." Yes there is history: our Ontario's want of care.

Reference is made to Parkdale's low rise apartment buildings on Tyndall Avenue, one completed in 1915 at No. 102, with neo-Classical entrance, stone foundation and brick walls with patterned architraves and spandrels, the other two at Nos. 110-112 of the 1930s with recessed brick banding, metal corner windows and prominent entrance feature with black Vitrolite or lucite doorcase with the name, Everglades, etched over the doorway. The Florida parentage seems obvious, for much of the Miami beachfront was once adorned by similar designs from the 1920s. Tyndall Avenue, though no longer with its stately pre-1914 houses still exhibits the park-like feeling of Parkdale, particularly with these buildings considered worthy of inclusion on the City inventory.

PJS

HAMILTON-NIAGARA

Events:

Flamborough's Summer Heritage Celebration

"Chestnut Grove", built for the first reeve of the village of Waterdown, Charles Sealey, was purchased by the town several years ago to accommodate various municipal service, including a LACAC office.

On Saturday, August 12th, the front lawn of the typical Victorian home in the heart of old Waterdown was the scene of a Summer Heritage Celebration organized by the Town of Flamborough's LACAC.

Set up outside were a number of displays mounted by various local heritage organizations as well as two individual collections: one of nineteenth century toys and the other of old milk bottles. Visitors could also get advice from local "experts" on techniques. At mid-day, everyone was treated to the delightful music of "Raspberry Jam", a local folksinging group.

Participants in the opening ceremony conducted by Mayor Robb, included representatives of the Ontario Government, Niagara Escarpment Commission, the ACO, and the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority. The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of a

Flamborough Heritage Plaque for "Chestnut Grove", signifying that the property has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. In addition, the mayor was complimented upon Flamborough's Council's plans to undertake Heritage Conservation District studies for the hamlet of Bullock's Corners and the old village of Waterdown, one of the former four municipalities that make up the present Town of Flamborough.

Inside the house were several photographic displays portraying the area's rich architectural heritage, including a LACAC exhibit of properties designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and properties whose owners, on the recommendation of LACAC, have been awarded Certificates of Commendation for accurate restoration work, sensitive renovations or excellent upkeep.

It is hoped that Flamborough LACAC's first Summer Heritage Celebration, much enjoyed by both visitors and participants, will become an annual event.

Inside Hamilton's New Unified Family Court (Former Hamilton Public Library)

The last Branch report recounted the history of the adaptive re-use of the former Hamilton Public Library to a Unified Family Court, focussing on the exterior renovations and restoration.

Now we will look inside to see what impact this conversion had on the original interior spaces of the library. Fitting a new use into an old building while preserving its architectural integrity can be a real challenge, especially if extensive renovations are required to accommodate very different spatial requirements. The conservation principle of "cautious conversion" advocates that "the new program or use should be adjusted as much as possible to suit the existing spaces and details."¹ From a conservation standpoint, the ideal adaptive re-uses are not a perfect match, however, the preservation of all distinctive original features and spaces often conflicts with the goal of fulfilling, within a given budget, the space and program requirements of the proposed new use. As illustrated by this case study of the Unified Family Court conversion, some form of compromise is usually necessary.

"Hamilton Now", an exhibition of current work by Hamilton area artists, held on the main floor of the old public library from July 17th to August 10th, gave Hamiltonians their last chance to see the original interior space in its

¹ Mark Fram, *Well-Preserved: The Ontario Heritage Foundation's Manual of Principles and Practice for Architectural Conservation* (1988), p.46.

entirety: the imposing lobby with its white marble double staircase and atrium balustrade, the open, well-lit spaces of the ground and second floor with their two rows of composite columns supporting a gridwork of denticulated beams, and the large multiple windows with transoms of lavender-coloured glass.

The large open interior spaces of the ground and second floors embodied the spatial ideals advanced by the Carnegie Corporation. In accordance with its recommendations, the subdivision of public space was achieved through the placement of book stacks.

Conservation guidelines prepared by staff from the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Communications in 1986 made the following recommendations with regard to the library interior:

"The spatial unity is an important original component whose cohesion should be maintained. While this may initially seem untenable in view of facility requirements, any development options which will permit the building user to comprehend the original spatial continuum should be explored. The column capitals, architraves and spatial grid constitute significant heritage resources and should be considered an integral part of the building restoration."

The architects, Michael Torsney and his associate Maurice Graff, indicated at a preliminary meeting with LACAC representatives that while the two rows of free-standing columns would be retained and restored, the original coffered ceiling would only remain visible along two central axes. Dropped ceilings were to be installed in all of the smaller rooms at the front and sides of the building, thereby concealing the original ceilings and the transom lights of the large windows, with their distinctive lavender-coloured square panes.

Guided by the principle of "cautious conversion", LACAC took the view that the entire coffered ceiling on each floor (specifically mentioned in the proposed Reasons for Designation) should remain open to the public view. The Committee envisaged a solution similar to that achieved in the North Hall of the old Toronto Public Library, which was converted to a career centre as part of the building's adaptive re-use as a new student service centre for the University of Toronto.² This hall, like the Hamilton library interior, featured rows of columns supporting a coffered ceiling. There the architects succeeded in maintaining the spatial unity of the hall by accommodating the required



Photographs of Unified Family Court Interior: View of entrance lobby with its double marble entrance staircase and two-storey atrium.

offices and consultation rooms in partial height cubes which were effectively capped by bronze mirrored strips to reduce their apparent bulk and relate to the gold trim of the columns and ceilings. Hamilton's City Architect, David Freeman, suggested that the open interior spaces of the Hamilton library could be subdivided through the use of lower partition walls combined with glass ceilings for the peripheral offices and meeting rooms, which would provide

acoustic privacy and at the same time offer an uninterrupted view of the coffered ceiling and coloured glass transom lights over the windows. He also suggested that the necessary mechanical ductwork, to be hidden from view above the dropped ceilings, could use small, unobtrusive exposed ducts fitted to the existing ceiling.

² By architects Howard D. Chapman and Howard V. Walker.



View of public hallway on the second floor showing the atrium balustrade, skylight and coffered ceiling supported by two rows of free-standing Corinthian columns.



Full-length view of public hallway looking towards the general offices behind the metal-and-glass partition wall at east end of building: shows the original coffered ceiling supported by two rows of free-standing Corinthian columns.

LACAC requested that this alternative solution be investigated. However, the project architects concluded that, for various reasons including budget restraints, it was not feasible. Consequently, the initial design concept was the one approved by the Ministry of Government Services and the Ministry of Culture and Communications. LACAC's final request that the original ceilings not be damaged by the installation of the dropped ceilings and mechanical systems was answered by a letter of assurance from the Minister of Culture and Communications that such damage would be kept to the minimum necessary.

Entering the new Unified Family Court for the first time, one is particularly

Photographs Courtesy City of Hamilton LACAC.

impressed by the grandeur of the restored entrance lobby, with its gleaming white marble floor, staircase and atrium balustrade supported by four square marble pillars with Corinthian capitals. Unfortunately, the appearance of the low atrium balustrade is now somewhat marred by the rather insensitively designed metal and plexiglass safety barriers - added to meet current Building Code requirements for railings 3' - 6" in height.

The original coffered ceilings supported by double rows of round Corinthian columns are now exposed only along the wide public hallways on both floors, the remaining sections having disappeared behind the partition walls and dropped

ceilings. The double rows of round Corinthian columns, though still free-standing, are separated from the new partition walls by only a very narrow space, which tends to diminish their visual impact, as does the grey and burgundy colour scheme of the columns, walls and ceilings. As the original ceiling was only two bays wide in the western section of the ground floor, and hence, supported by a single row of columns, the columns on the south side of the present hallway were replicated to balance the original ones on the north side. A modern metal-and-glass partition and entrance to the general offices on the east side of the ground floor offers an unimpeded view to the west wall, including two triple windows with visible transom lights.

In sum, the public response to the renovated interior has been generally favourable. Those who knew and admired the interior spaces of the former library, though disappointed that the original ceilings are now only partly visible, must weigh what has been lost (at least in appearance if not in substance) against what has been gained in terms of a new use which, most importantly, has secured the long-term preservation of this landmark building. Moreover, none of the alterations made for the courthouse facility are absolutely irreversible - safety railings, lighting fixtures, paint colours are all elements which could be changed. Even the original ceilings could once again be uncovered if the building was ever adapted to yet another use. Accepting the new courthouse interior in its present form, one can still ponder the merits of LACAC's design concept, which would have preserved in a visible manner all of the library interior's most significant architectural features as well as its spacial unity.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Although summer is traditionally the quiet season for our branch, many volunteers associated with Heritage Cambridge have been quite active helping to promote our city's heritage.

Board members Allan Howell and Ross Wilson continued their dedicated and invaluable work on the creation of a new and improved Membership Brochure. We all anticipate seeing the fruits of their labour later this fall.

Also scheduled for the autumn was the semi-annual Heritage Cambridge House Tour. The committee in charge of the organization of this event has benefited greatly from the able leadership of HC member, Bernice Barlow. This year there were eight destinations and the House Tour features 'open doors' in all of Cambridge's four communities. Highlights included the "Wedding Cake Cottage", designed by Galt's greatest

nineteenth century architect, Fred Mellich; the Jacob K. Erb House, a c.1859 stone structure in old Preston, that features a delightful mix of picturesque and classical features; light refreshments available at St. Andrew's Church in old Hespeler; and an Afternoon Tea hosted by the staff of the newly refurbished Langdon Hall. October 14th, 1989, was the date of the event, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with advance tickets at \$10 and \$12

at the door. Proceeds from the Tour help to defray the operating costs of Heritage Cambridge for the next two years.

Every Sunday during the summer, a Heritage Cambridge volunteer was on hand to conduct a walking tour of Old Galt. Considering that this was our second year of offering tours to the general public, we are pleased to report

that the average number of people in attendance was ten. For those that missed out this summer or last, the branch does intend to repeat these tours next year, beginning in May - details to follow!

And for those following Tim Drennen's progress in the restoration of his cottage on Grand Avenue South ... some exciting news of his many accomplishments. Tim repaired and painted all of his cottage

window sashes; and his granite stonework repointed; restored the unique door shelter that leads into his kitchen; resurrected the conical porch with Tuscan columns at the front door; and worked diligently at repairing the picturesque back porch of his house. We are all impressed with the quality of Tim's work and congratulate him on a job well done!

BRANT COUNTY

Adelaide Hunter-Hoodless Homestead, St. George, Ontario

The Adelaide Hunter-Hoodless homestead, Blue Lake Road, St. George, Ontario has been operated since 1962 as a museum by the Women's Institute of Canada in honour of the birthplace of their founder, Adelaide Hunter, in 1857, who also had a large part in the founding the Young Women's Christian Association, the Victorian Order of Nurses, the National Council of Women and of three schools of domestic science: Macdonald College, Guelph, Macdonald Institute at McGill, and the Lillian Massey School of Domestic Science, later affiliated with the University of Toronto.

Adelaide's grandfather, Joseph, and his wife, with fourteen children, came in 1836 from Ireland to Canada. David, the fifth child and his wife Jean bought the homestead in 1851. Adelaide was born the youngest of twelve, living in the home until soon before her marriage to John Hoodless of Hamilton in 1881. By 1890 her four children had been born and the youngest, a boy, was dead from drinking contaminated milk. It was to forestall such tragedies marked by small graves in every cemetery that Adelaide began her life's work, the transmission of scientific knowledge of home and child care, Household Science, Domestic Science, or Home Economics, as the subject has been called.

The home near St. George may seem a small one in rural surroundings for twelve children, raised without their father. But the downstairs plan consists of kitchen, pantry, guest room, parlour and dining room. Originally a summer kitchen and woodshed on the east to the rear would have provided even more living space. As in most rural homes the kitchen and dining room would have been the hearth centre, while parlour and guest room were for 'Sunday best.'



Harriet Hunter-Hoodless Homestead, Blue Lake Road, St. George.

On the second floor were best bedroom, boys, girls and storage area, as well as the entrance to the back stairs, now a bathroom. The storage area is now an office and storeroom for the W.I. The rooms are medium-sized, without pretension, yet comfortable and reasonably appointed. It may be that many children slept in the same large bed, as was common in the early days and that one or two of the youngest remained in the parents' bedroom.

Although the house exterior to some is unremarkable it has, however, a gracious simplicity which is enhanced by pleasant proportions, side chimneys, a front gable of classic shape (indicating an early century date), a low roof and eaves returns, also marks of the 1830s and 40s, low-set windows and a simple front door. Compared with early photos of the house, the main floor windows show

six over six panes most likely in 1851, when the Hunters purchased the property. In Adelaide's time the windows had two over two panes.

The windows are simple rectangles, save for the rounded second storey gable window, which, in its proportions, echoes the Classical style. The door is also of Classical proportions with an entablature and side pilasters. Plaques honouring the historical significance of the house frame the front door, one placed by the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board in 1962, when the clapboard finish seems to have been renewed. Gables are unadorned with gingerbread befitting an early Brant County House.

The rear of the house currently contains an apartment for the curator converted from summer kitchen and woodshed. The original structure to the rear has been demolished.



View into parlour.



Girls' room, second floor.

Photos by Audrey Scott

Landmark Driving Tour

A tour, prepared in June, to some twenty-five sites in all, was provided with a map and brief notes of points of interest including background history to buildings, owners, and even architects and contractors where these were known.

This is a comprehensive tour which included not only Brantford itself, but extensions taking in such landmarks as the Mohawk Chapel. Other Brantford tours include the Core Area, East Ward, Dufferin, William Street, Eagle Place

and Mount Pleasant. This is intended as the beginning of a worthwhile tour guide for Brantford and Brant County for those interested in its history and architecture.

NORTH WATERLOO REGION

Annual Meeting

At the Annual Branch Meeting in June, guest speaker David L. Newlands, Director of Heritage Resources of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, lectured on the theme "Future Directions of Heritage in Ontario." He pointed out that an increase in cultural and heritage groups in the province over the past fifteen years has resulted in keen competition for government funding. He warned that financial resources to over 600 cultural, historic and preservationist groups will decrease at the local and provincial levels; therefore, various groups will have to assess their purpose and/or mandate and plan for financial independence. David Newlands outlined the challenging role for heritage groups

like ours in the next decade. Firstly, heritage must be an integral part of the planning process of a municipality, incorporated into a heritage master plan. Heritage will have to combine such traditional, material concerns as architecture, genealogy and museums with such non-material aspects as dance, music and folk traditions. All these groups should organize under one umbrella to establish goals, priorities and strategies. Secondly, cultural and heritage groups should support themselves financially, without relying on government grants. Governments can indirectly support them by offering tax benefits to an entrepreneurial private sector. Thirdly, heritage organizations should choose those

things which they do well; focused activities will convince both the public and government to protect heritage. The fourth point is that provincial organizations must devise a market-driven system, so builders and developers will choose to utilize old buildings as an attractive alternative to their destruction. To this end, heritage groups must assume the role of lobbyist to encourage compatible use of old buildings in the community, providing housing for example. Lastly, heritage groups must engage in market-oriented research. Accurate information and sound argument, not emotional appeal, will convince developers and municipal councillors to retain heritage structures for multi-economic uses.

The former Waterloo County Jail and Governor's House, Kitchener

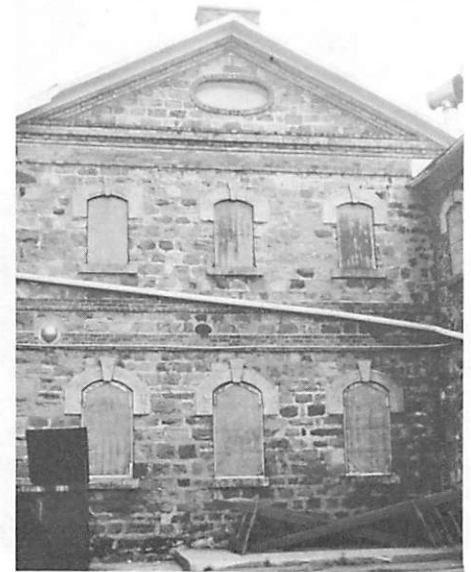
The Summer 1988 issue of ACORN (XIII-2) featured an article "Speaking of Jails . . ." by Pat McKegney, president of North Waterloo Region branch. It discussed the history of two adjoining buildings situated between Queen Street North and Frederick Streets, known as the former Waterloo County Jail and Governor's House. When the County of Waterloo came into existence in 1852, the Provisional Council established the community of Berlin (Kitchener) as the judicial seat. Subsequently, Berlin was incorporated as a village (1853) and a registry office, jail and courthouse were constructed on land donated by Frederick Gaukel, north of The Great Road (King Street).

The jail is a solid structure of squared fieldstone with a double cross-gable roof. Salmon-coloured brick forms the pediment, trims the recessed oval panel in each gable, and provides a double string course at the second-storey level. Segmental heads over the window openings have prominent keystones and haunch stones with curved arch stones between. Originally, iron gratings over all ten windows and a surrounding wooden palisade reinforced security. In 1861 walls of squared fieldstone replaced the stockade around the exercise yard and contribute even today to the solid and secure appearance of the jail complex.

The Governor's House built in 1878 in front of the jail may be the best remaining example of Italianate villa architecture in this area. Its style was chosen to complement the Italianate features of the County Courthouse (demolished in 1964) and the fashionable residences in the neighbourhood. The house was constructed in the shape of an ell, with an entrance tower in the internal corner capped by a mansard roof with small dormers. Other architectural details include prominent keystones, bracketed eaves, and a bay window.

The jail and warden's house have been closed since 1978. Kitchener LACAC designated these buildings in 1981 to prevent their demolition. For over a decade, interior and exterior deterioration has progressed while the buildings remain vacant.

Despite the closure of these buildings, archaeological activities have been taking place in four areas of the prison yard. For

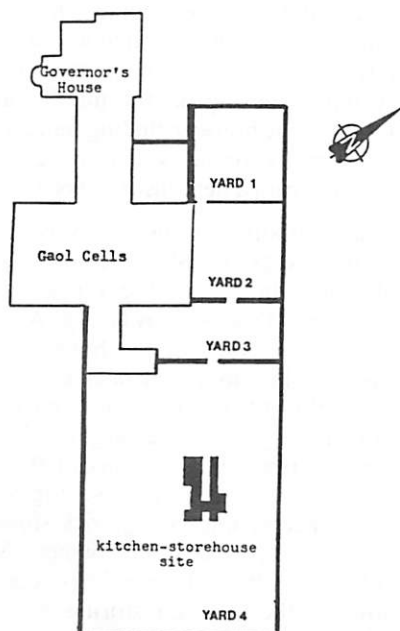


East wall of jail showing stonework and brick band courses and pediment outline.

The other gable overlooks the prison yard.

Photo by J. Arndt

WATERLOO GAOL EXCAVATIONS



The Governor's House in the late 1970s, 73 Queen Street North.

Courtesy North Waterloo Region Branch Archives.

Acknowledgements:

Correspondence NWR Branch Archives

Notes for students of the Archaeological Field School 1987. (Regional Municipality of Waterloo)

The Waterloo County Gaol 1987 Excavation. Report prepared by John Triggs for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, Archaeology Section, Planning and Development Dept. © 1987.

Archaeological excavation July 1988; site grid and tripod screen near east wall of Yard 4.

Photo by J. Arndt





Home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burrell, 70 Albert Street, Heidelberg, Ontario.

the past few summers, an Archaeological Field School sponsored by the Region of Waterloo or the Waterloo County Board of Education has offered an interest course or a credit course, respectively, with instruction and supervision by licensed archaeologists.

In the photo above, the string grid indicated the location of a kitchen-storehouse constructed in 1861 and demolished in 1942. Students conducting a controlled excavation of this site have exposed parts of a foundation wall 20' x 40', glass and ceramic shards, animal bones and assorted hardware. Objectives of the excavation have included establishing the dimensions

of the structure; obtaining data about the structure of the building and history of prison life; developing a detailed stratigraphic sequence for the site; and locating, if possible, the remains of Reginald White, an inmate tried and hanged for murder at the jail in 1940 and allegedly buried in Yard 4. During the past decade, personnel of municipal, regional and provincial governments have successfully unearthed items of interest and the remains of two bodies interred in Yard 2, those of James Allison hanged in 1898 and Stoyko Boyeff hanged in 1920. However, the unmarked, unrecorded grave of Mr. White remains a mystery.

Joyce Arndt



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sauder, 85 Walter Street, Kitchener.

Photos by Joyce Arndt.

Spring House Tour

The branch held a Spring House Tour in May. An hotel and two houses were visited by a small group of our members. Our first visit was the former Maryhill Inn on the north-west corner of the main intersection in Maryhill, a small village north-east of Waterloo, notable also for its landmark, the Roman Catholic church crowning the knoll which forms the site. The hotel was built in 1853 by John Andrich. Originally it was a two-storey, five-bay, centre hall frame building two bays deep with a lean-to addition. A verandah with attractively turned porch posts stretched across the entire façade of the building. The building's exterior is now much altered, covered in stucco and the front verandah has been replaced by a built-in concrete block and glass addition. The present owners, Joan and David Stockhausen, no longer operate it as an hotel, but sometimes rent rooms out. The inside is also much altered, but retains some early features such as axe hewn beams and an early bar.

The second house on the tour was on Walter Street in Kitchener, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sauder. It was built between 1920 and 1923 by William Sass, founder of the Interior Hardwood Company. The exterior is buff brick and stucco with a red tile roof. The inside is quite spacious; one enters a very beautiful foyer with panelled walls and a panelled ceiling inlaid with ebony, panelling mostly black walnut. The front hall has a beamed ceiling and the walls are panelled about half way up, while the dining room is very large, with magnificent wood panelling, forming a high dado three-quarters of the way up the wall, and a beamed ceiling. The living room is beautifully decorated with a very lovely fireplace. The Sauders have been very busy working on the interior and exterior of the house including building a large stone retaining wall using granite fieldstone from a demolished 1860 house.

The last building on the tour was a red brick two-storey, three-bay, Georgian style, centre hall house on the outskirts of Heidelberg. It was built by George Ament in 1858, The "tail" of the house being earlier. The interior has attractive wooden panels below the windows in the parlour. Floor structure comprises large axe-hewn beams and tree trunks flattened on the top side only, spaced very close together. There is a very interesting brick smokehouse on the property. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Burrell are in the process of renovating the interior, restoring the front porch and repairing the smokehouse.

Marg Rowell

OXFORD COUNTY

The Dr. Levi Hoyt Perry Home Update

In May 1989 Heritage Oxford, in conjunction with a major corporate sponsor, raised approximately \$75,000.00 in an attempt to purchase the Levi Hoyt Perry Estate in Woodstock. Unfortunately, the property sold to a London developer for \$140,000.00. One week later we offered to buy the property for \$150,000.00, but were turned down. Since that date, Heritage Oxford has not been idle. The property and family are being researched, grants in support of purchase or restoration have been sought, and a viable use for the property, once purchased, has been pursued. One possible use is in the feasibility study stage. We hope for final approval in

the spring and at that time will complete our fundraising in a second attempt to purchase the property.

The current owner has prepared a development plan for the property. However, before any work can begin, a rezoning must be requested and approved. No action has been taken yet in this regard.

A further historical note about Dr. Levi Hoyt Perry, concerns his two American cousins who played an important role in American history; Commander Oliver Hazzard Perry, the victor over the British in the Naval battle on Lake Erie during the War of 1812, and his younger brother

Commodore Matthew Galbraith Perry, led the American Naval expedition to Japan and forced the acceptance of a peace treaty which opened trade to the Western World after 200 years of isolation.

In this area, there are still many descendants of the Perry family. We would welcome any inquiries from additional members.

For more information please contact:

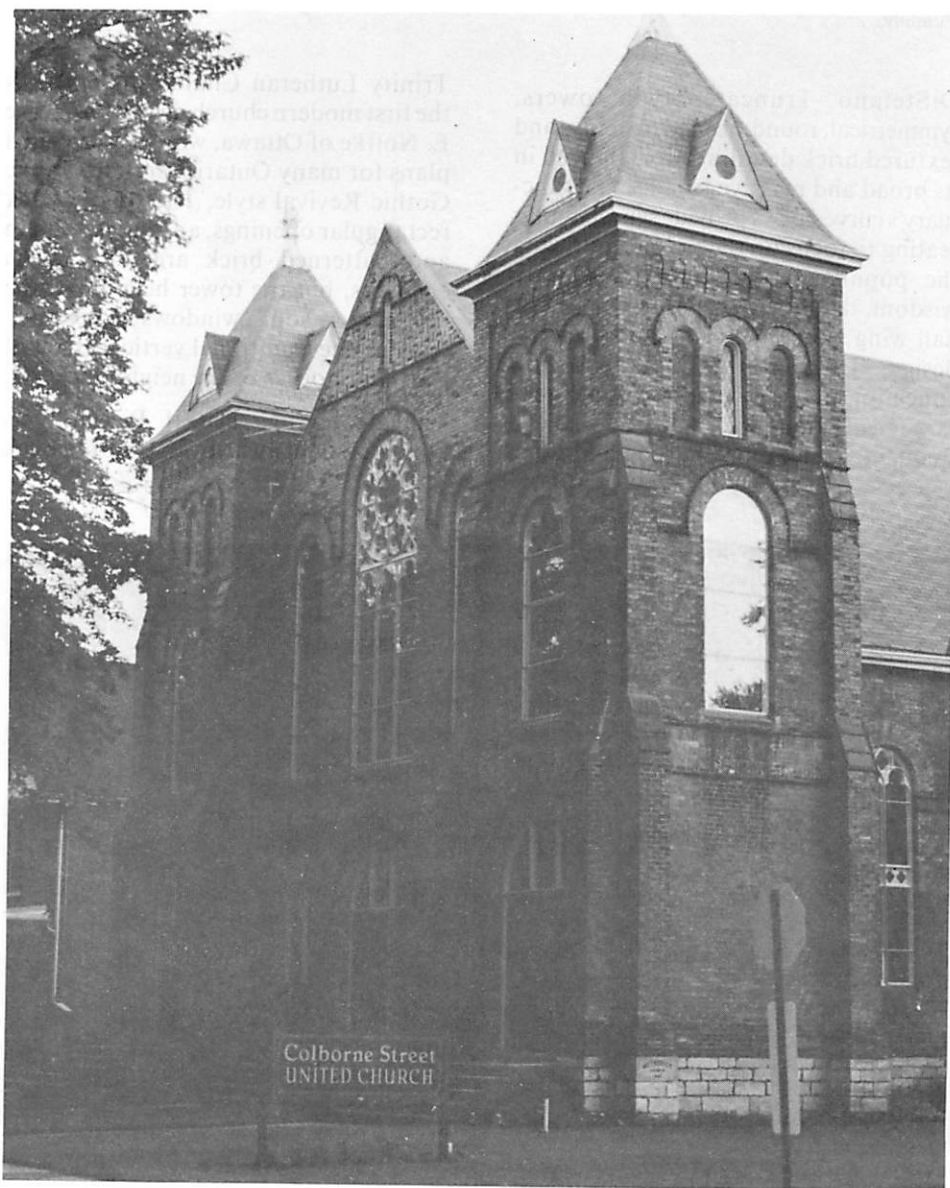
Sheila Johnson
"Heritage Oxford"
c/o Woodstock Museum
466 Dundas St.,
Woodstock, Ont.
N4S 1C4
519-537-8411

LONDON REGION

As we are beginning to put together our annual spring walking tour, we are reminded of the successful tour held last year. Netta Brandon has provided the following interesting and comprehensive description of the 1989 Geranium Walk.

Londoners responded enthusiastically to "The Pride of Piccadilly", the branch's annual Geranium Walk on the first Sunday afternoon last June. Of course, the streets were named Piccadilly and Oxford and Pall Mall as namesakes of London, England. This residential area developed from 1890, when the Canadian Pacific Railway line appeared, and was built up by 1915 in a fairly homogeneous style of local "white" brick storey-and-a-half and two-storey houses. Of the two churches visited, one was celebrating its centennial and the other was modern. Of two mansions entered, one was undergoing renovation from duplex, and the other was intact even to Eastlake and Art Nouveau interior features. The remaining houses also showed varied stylistic influences, thus providing a very well-balanced and educational architectural tour.

Colborne Street United Church was Methodist when built in 1889. The Geranium Tour date coincided with its centennial gala day. Although he was the leading proponent of High Victorian Architecture in the area, architect George F. Durand used Richardsonian Romanesque features for this white brick building. It is well-illustrated and documented in *Victorian Architecture in London and Southwestern Ontario: Symbols of Aspiration* by Tausky and



Colborne Street United Church (former Methodist), 1889. George F. Durand, Architect.



Col. James Shanley's town house, built c. 1872, 301 Piccadilly.

DiStefano. Truncated twin towers, symmetrical, round-headed openings and textured brick detailing are balanced in its broad and massive façade. The sanctuary's curved pews provide semi-circular seating to focus on the pulpit, following the popular Akron plan. With rare wisdom, the Sunday School and lecture hall wing were included in the original design. This Methodist emphasis on education thus provided a complementary façade along the side street, not the frequently-found, patched-on addition.

Trinity Lutheran Church of 1950 was the first modern church design by Werne E. Noffke of Ottawa, who had provided plans for many Ontario churches in the Gothic Revival style. The yellow brick rectangular openings, and areas of plain and patterned brick are all modern elements, but the tower height and the tall, narrow south windows successfully provide the traditional vertical effect of the older houses of the neighbourhood.

The greater age of 301 Piccadilly is indicated right away by its deep set-back

from the street. It was built around 1872, and by 1875 it was owned by Col. James Shanley, who organized the First London Field Battery, and thus the first field guns to be used in the Canadian militia. Historic value accrues to this "Town house", so called because he also resided on a country estate. As QC, Supreme Court Master, Dep. Reg. in Chancery, etc., Shanley entertained society as high as it climbed here. But eventually the solid and spacious rooms accommodated a School of Dance, and more than one family. Fortunately it is now undergoing renovation, so that it can be used for the owner's home and work, without exterior or structural alterations. The original façade showed Italianate features such as brick quoins, a shallow hipped roof, and carved stone lintels atop windows and doorway. Its appearance changed in 1909 when a massive, neo-Classical portico covered both storeys and interior features were updated. In the 1930s leaded glass panes in windows and doors were added. Hall, staircase and complete Library panelling and shelving are of the best oak. A painted frieze as a high mural may have been executed by a talented Shanley. Many fine fireplaces, high ceilings and deep mouldings all delight the visitor.

A prominent corner mansion in red brick was designed by Herbert E. Matthews c. 1903 at 398 Piccadilly. Its prominent owner was John George Richter, president of the London Life Insurance Co., who died in 1932. His daughter, Miss Mabel, lived on so quietly here that by being under-used until 1976 (when an auction dispersed the furnishings,) no redecorating was ever done, and the drawn blinds conserved the grandest rooms. Wood spindlework, outside in a fine bandstand, conically-roofed corner section of the verandah, and inside around door openings, is all intact. The wall coverings, original hardware, and early lighting fixtures that combine gas and electric power are most remarkable. Varnished oak everywhere - used even for picture rails, drapery rods and rings - complements parquet floors. The main parlour fireplace, with Corinthian columns, tiles, an antique copper gas grate, and an overmantel with a framed mirror, feature an egg-and-dart motif. In the dining room the built-in cabinets, the original Art Nouveau wallpaper below the picture rail, and the textured wallpaper coved to a ceiling paper border have not been changed by subsequent owners. The servants' wing has distinctly older-style and plainer wood trim, and the butler's pantry is a period piece.



445 Piccadilly Street, 1905. William G. Murray, Architect.

The white frame house at 697 Colborne provided the best example of a successful addition. The building was originally a simple cottage, built around 1875, which had Neo-Classical detail. The upper storey and the verandah, with Queen Anne sunbursts and other embellishments in the gables, the brackets, and the bargeboard date from the 1890s, but retain the scale and intimacy of the earlier cottage. The other frame building, at present architect Desh Mahotra's office and studio at 733 Waterloo, had in years past been a residence and even earlier a community meeting hall or church.



697 Colborne Street, c. 1875 with porch and dormer from 1890s.

Photos Nancy Tausky

Three generations of the Dickinson family have enjoyed since 1890 or are still enjoying life at 426 Pall Mall. This storey-and-a-half white brick house and its similar neighbours all enhance the street with the type of L-shaped verandah which accommodates front and side doors and protects a large front-room window. At 426 the original and handsome stained glass panels in both doors, above the big window, and in some interior transom panes are treasured. The cherubs still beam from the cast-iron fireplace, and an original chandelier has been restored. Several moulded plaster ceiling medallions are in place, and wooden fretwork adorns a doorway. The modern kitchen and family room, deck and patio doors keep their secret from the street. Fronting Pall Mall, the verandah's turned posts, frets, spindles and pierced curlicues, along with the scrollwork in the wide gable were all recently painted creamy and subtle aqua tints in a period manner. Although an outstanding example, the house reflects the Piccadilly neighbourhood in taking pride in its mill-worked trimmings.

One of the few railwayman's brick cottages in the area is at 755 Maitland, built c. 1892. It also sports the shingled and decorated gables, brackets and porch detail found on the exteriors of the taller houses. Here the former back kitchen was converted to a sitting room. The artist's detached brick studio was made from stabling formerly belonging to the abutting property. It was purchased with its bit of land and finished to open to this back garden.

The builder of 445 Piccadilly in 1905 was the newly-practising William G. Murray, who went on to design many London buildings. Here the exterior details are simpler, but it is inside that new ideas in housing are really evident. Was it better central heating that banished hall doors to the main rooms? Here are wide openings set off by pairs of simple, fluted columns. The ornate wooden grilles once found at the stairway and between the double

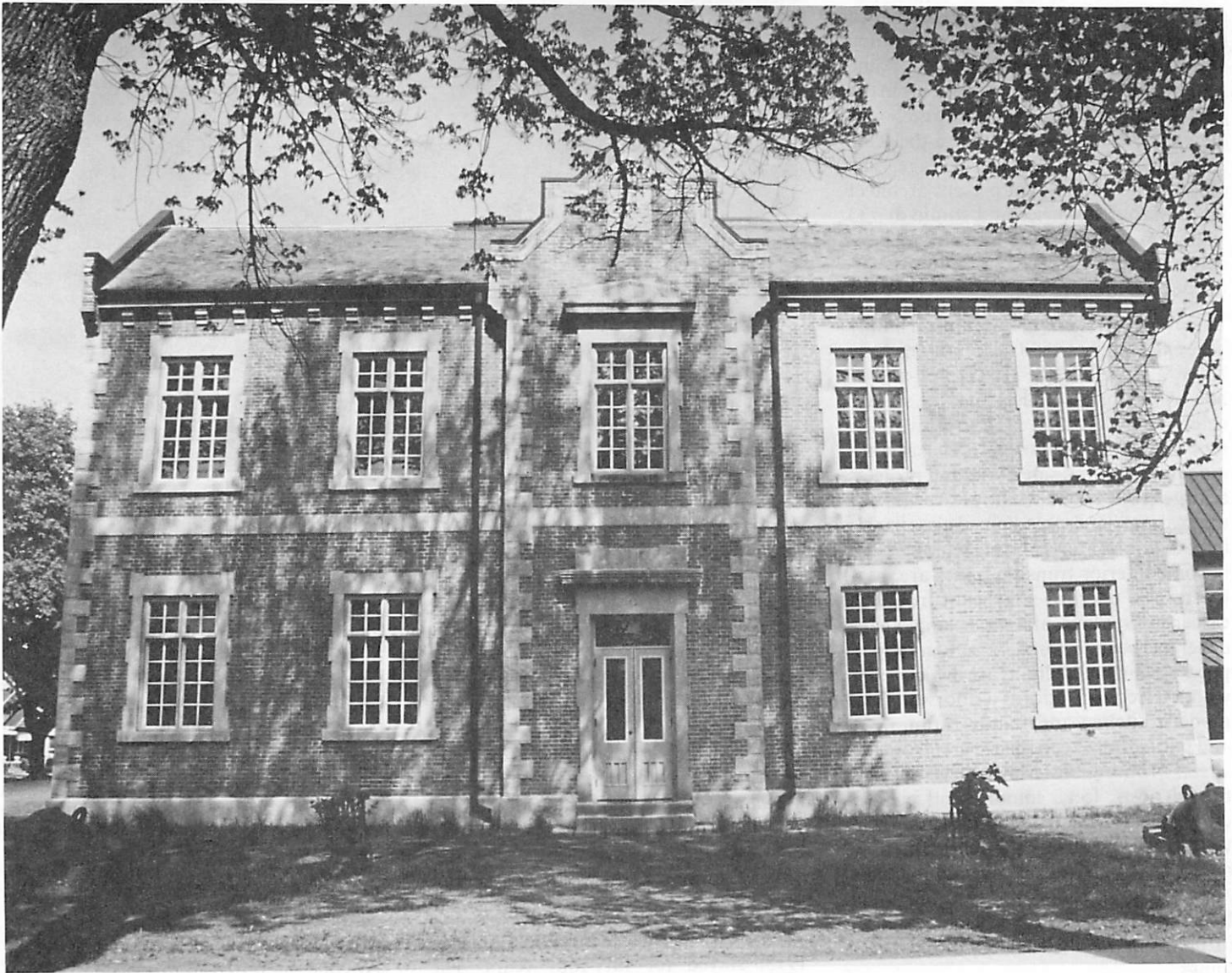
parlors were brought from the attic to view. A coat closet receives daylight through stained glass. On the landing an out-thrust and bracketed window, an oriel in effect, is panelled for seating. Upstairs the toilet room and bathroom are still separate, much in the English practice. Back stairs are still provided for the maid's use. Classic egg-and-dart design with dentils appears in the main rooms, but novel and distinctive patterns are found elsewhere, in the windows and door panelling.

The first owner of 429 Piccadilly, built in 1913, stayed for fifty-four years. The second stayed twenty years. The style, from the Hudson River, is Dutch Colonial Revival, with front gambrel roof of slate. Many materials - brick, stone, wood shingles and stucco - finish the walls. A massive feeling and restraint in ornament seem to show a reaction to the exuberance of the High Victorian period. Passing a panelled oak staircase and small stained glass hall windows one enters through sliding French doors the dining room with its beamed ceiling, plate rail, and early crystal light fixture. Columns frame the opening to the living room, which has a coal fireplace. Upstairs rooms are varied. One finds first a delicate Art Deco ceiling and a bay window in a bedroom, then a library with some stained glass in windows and the easy comfort of an electric fireplace. As rear rooms were too small, (although the former maid could not have complained), a partition has been removed in favour of one large bedroom with an alcove.

The Geranium Walks strive to educate, boost the neighbourhood, raise the Branch profile as well as its funds, and to entertain. Much valuable research also results. The brochure tactfully points out deficiencies and inappropriate techniques like sand-blasting as seen on the route. Branch zealots are at work for the walk June 3, 1990, when again the geranium pot on the tripod will point out special London buildings.

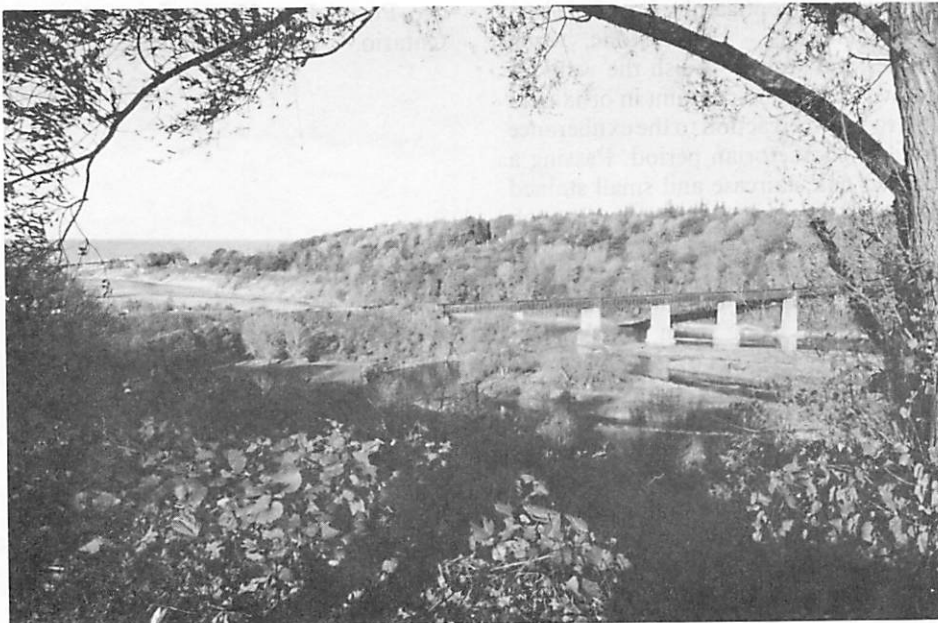
Descriptions of past walks have been collected in *Brackets and Bargeboards*, recently published by the London Branch. Anyone interested in procuring copies of the book, or in getting tickets for the 1990 walk should write the London Branch, c/o Postal Box 22, Station B, London, Ontario.

Netta Brandon



Restored school, built in 1856 and now the front section at the Huron County Museum.

Chris Borgal Photo



The Huron County Museum project by Architect Christopher Borgal was completed in 1989 within \$18,000 of a \$550,000 budget. It forms a part of the complete museum renovation which included new galleries and a 30,000 sq.ft. reconstruction of several rear additions. Total project has been in the range of \$3,800,000 with support coming from all levels of government. Capital costs (excluding gallery installations) were in order of \$85/sq.ft. which is remarkable in that the average cost of a structure to meet full museum standards (which this site does meet) is in the order of \$125/sq.ft. while the new national museums have been well in excess of \$200. Several commentators from outside the region have stated that it is probably the "finest community museum in Ontario."

Maitland CPR bridge which shows it in its valley setting with a view to Lake Huron.

Chris Borgal Photo

In Goderich the Huron County Museum project has been completed and most of the galleries set up. This recycling of the 1850s school building with new additions to provide work space, storage and further facilities came within \$18,000 of budget. Attendance in a year has grown from 11,000 to 21,000. The old County Jail, also a museum, is to undergo further restoration including pointing of masonry.

Although the CPR Goderich to Guelph railway line has been abandoned and the track ripped up, not all is lost yet. A stay of execution has been arranged for the fine bridge of c. 1910 sweeping across the mouth of the Maitland River in Goderich and the Town is studying its retention as part of the waterfront walkway and, pending fundraising, as an integral part of a hiking trail. Regrettably however, the Maitland River bridge at Auburn was removed and so was the interesting concrete underpass for the crossover of the former London, Huron and Bruce railway (later part of the CN) abandoned some twenty years ago.

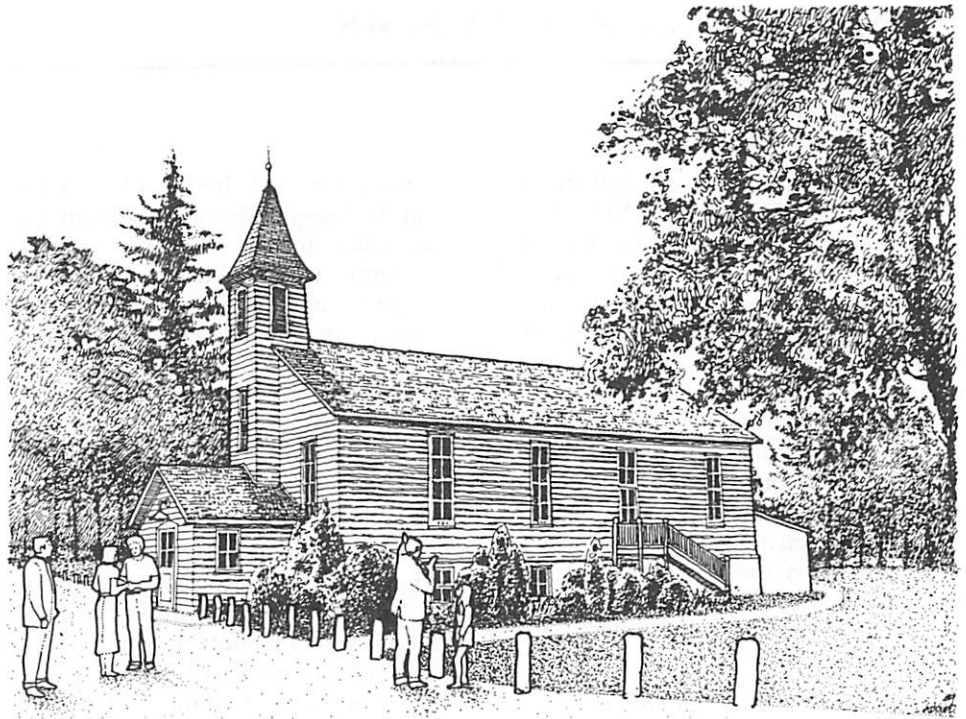
The study of the Bayfield Town Hall is complete and the recommendation is that it should be used as a conference centre. A committee has been set up to raise funds and results so far show great promise and good support for the project.

Huron County Branch plans a series of lectures carrying on into the spring. The first one, by this editor, on Historic Canals, has already been delivered. The next planned is on the subject of Log Cabins to be given by John Rutledge, followed by Religious Symbolism by Adolfo Spaleta and a talk on the Hamilton and Scourge, the War of 1812 sinkings in Lake Ontario by Klaus Breede, for a time project archeologist and now director of the Huron County Museum.

Designations in Huron County communities are proceeding and include the Freeman House, a large, white brick, Italianate structure of the mid to late 1870s on Highway 8 in Goderich Township and in Clinton the Kildonan Inn.

The west side of (Seaforth's) Main Street looking north. A two-storey façade predominates but is highlighted by the Cardno Opera Hall built in 1877. The Hall comprises two styles. The second floor blends into the façade of the block while the roof and tower are in an eclectic Second Empire style that is at once marvellous and pompous.

Sketch and caption by Nicholas Hill



Renovated Bayfield Town Hall as proposed.
Rendering by Adolfo Spaleta. Courtesy Christopher Borgal, Architect.

Other conservation activity is also notable. A group in Seaforth is seeking assistance to work on the interior of Cardno's Opera Hall, the impressive Second Empire building of 1879 with clock tower which dominates the centre of the main commercial block (See *Ontario Towns*, plate 97).

Inside the late nineteenth century painted stage curtain is still in place. A heritage grant has been given to the Box Furniture Store in the same town to restore the exterior including elaborate wood decoration of dowel and spindlework.

PJS



GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

The Skinner/Jackson House, Camden East, Ontario

The purchase of a one-and-a-half storey cottage, circa 1860, in the Village of Camden East, not far from the City of Kingston, was made possible by the use of money available from the ACO Heritage Fund. The Fund was established through a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications, with the purpose of encouraging restoration of heritage buildings. While a number of loans from this fund have been made to owners of designated buildings, this is the first time that the fund has been used to make a property aquisition. It is the intention that the house be restored, incorporating modern amenities, designated, and offered for purchase.

The house remains essentially as it was constructed, with kitchen and parlour on either side of a box hall, and stairs leading to two bedrooms on the second floor in

the main part of the house. A large wing, framed in heavy timber, as was the original, was added to the rear of the house, apparently within a few years of first occupancy, and the kitchen was moved to more commodious accommodation in this wing, which also included two smaller rooms and a large woodshed, with a loft overlooking the woodshed. Before purchase by The ACO the house had suffered a fire and explosion, which resulted in unfortunate damage.

The house is situated on a large corner lot, with views to the north across the road to the Napanee River and the open fields beyond, within a short walk to conveniences at Camden East's 'Four Corners'. The house could accommodate a small family within the existing floor area, or provide generous living space for a retired couple.

Generally the house is in good condition. The stone foundation is sound, with full basement under the main part, and crawl space under the rear wing. Except for fire damage, which is to be repaired with new material to match existing, the wood siding can be refurbished by painting. A number of wood window sashes were blown out by the explosion, and are being rebuilt to original detail, for reinstallation. The Port Hope Branch of The ACO has undertaken the task of repairing and painting the shutters.

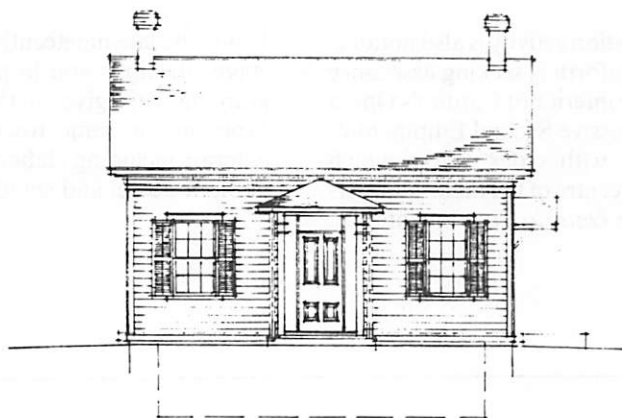
The Quinte Region Branch, being the nearest branch of the ACO, has contributed many hours of arduous volunteer labour to clear out fire and smoke-damaged debris, and to remove the lath and plaster finishes, so that the full extent of the damage could be determined. In the immediate area of the fire, which originated in the basement, the damage was so extensive as to require replacement of the structural and framing members, but elsewhere, even though the timbers were heavily charred, their structural capacity was not seriously diminished, and, with suitable repairs they can remain in place.

It was the hope that the roof of the rear wing, which had been displaced by the explosion, could be realigned, but the fire damage was such that the structure of the roof has to be largely replaced. This will be done to the original configuration using pole rafters to match those remaining, and maintaining the loft area, which can be adapted to one of any number of uses, to suit the occupant's requirements.

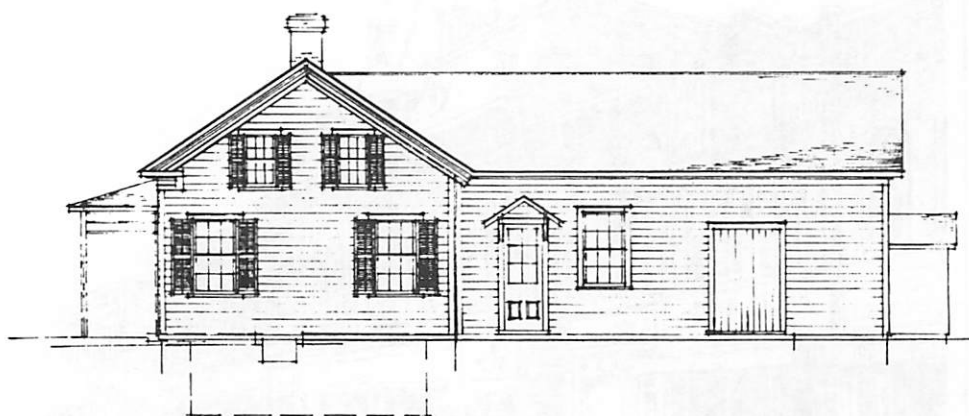
Work now in progress by a Kingston contractor, includes repair and reconstruction of the roof areas, replacement of damaged siding, trim and other exterior woodwork, installation of windows and doors, restoration of the chimneys to the original design, and other work as necessary to stabilize the structure, to properly enclose the building against the elements, and to restore the exterior detail. Sitework comprises some regrading in the immediate vicinity of the house to improve local drainage, and general cleanup of the grounds.

The second phase of the work will include installation of the plumbing, heating, and electrical systems, building insulation, and interior finishes, and other miscellaneous work to restore the house to its original charm.

Roy B. Turner



NORTH FRONT
TO NEWBURGH ROAD



WEST FRONT TO SIDE STREET

0 5 10 20 30 40
Scale in feet

SK. 6

PLS/CRA

1/89

daintily panelled fireplace mantel that has twinned reeded half-columns each side. The Germaines, who own the house at present, plan to rebuild the missing left wing destroyed by fire many years ago; they have done a great deal of adjustment and replacement and our photo shows the fresh new appearance of the central front with an unusual interpretation of a traditional front door.

Dr. and Mrs. Germain worked hard on a Portage festival which was held the very next weekend after our tour, July 21, 22, 23 at the Carrying Place. This came off very well, with voyageurs in historical costume racing to carry their canoes across the isthmus, re-created colonial regiments in mock-battle, craft shows, historical displays, family reunions, and all sorts of other events to draw attention to this interesting spot. Our Architectural Walking Tour was merely a warm-up for this great event. One hopes the festival can now be held annually.

On the south-east corner as you come in from Brighton is a comfortable-looking rambling house covered with 1930s-looking brick, with gate-posts of the same. It's evidently an earlier house, side-hall with wing, possibly 1880s to judge from some varnished matchboard ceilings, roundels in the corners of the door trim, and the segmental arches of the windows and doors. But in the 1930s someone modernized it very extensively, panelling a couple of rooms handsomely, making a porch into a room, and bricking over the whole outside.

Now we know why the question of a new outer skin for this house will have come up. Carrying Place is blessed with marvelous breezes off Lake Ontario, so close to the west. Our tour group, undaunted by the July heat, felt a grateful breeze in our faces, increasing as we walked west, and we know that the winter winds must be something special. And of all houses this must have been the draftiest.

Lorne Teskey, the present owner, was able to show us a snapshot of the structure of the house, taken in an end of the attic. We have often seen a "stacked" wall of staggered boards nailed on top of one another and plastered inside and out sometimes referred to as sawmill plank construction. This is stacked too but differently; its an open cribwork of something like 1" x 2" wood, laid flat, with *short crosspieces two or three apart in every row, through the thickness of the wall.* The cribwork is filled in with a concrete or grout of rounded beach gravel

(brought from further away than the Carrying Place), which must have been slathered on layer by layer as the sticks of the cribwork were nailed on.

Did anyone ever hear of such a thing? It is a little like Orson Fowler's "gravel" wall, but the formwork is not boards but the open slats of the crib, which of course remain in place for nailing on siding, or lath for plaster, or frames and trim for windows. Presumably the grout gives the wall its bearing power, for the sticks would not. The little sticks of the crib will have shrunk soon, those running transversely giving hundreds of holes to let the wind through. Maybe the later owner didn't trust this unusual wall structure (though the basket effect would tie it all together well in an earthquake) and so he covered it all with good substantial modern brick to shore it up and keep the wind out.

Approaching our destination, the Young House, where we were going to have our tea and cookies, we paused to consider the plans for development just across the street, slated for the western end of the Carrying Place on the Northumberland side. Some hundreds of acres have been sold by the Quinn family to a developer, and over the next ten years housing for something like 4700 people, mainly seniors, will be built. The brick house is to be tastefully restored as office headquarters and perhaps there will be some convenience stores on the other corner. Special arrangements for water and sewage have been thought of, for this is a town nearly half the size of Trenton.

The railroad runs through the property, and we hope that the developer, who claims to be keen on railroads, will make this an essential part of the plan. Railroads ought to have a great future. GO trains extend their service further year by year, and this line, communicating with Picton and connecting with lines to Toronto, is one of the important arteries of Prince Edward County.

We did not actually walk beyond the railroad track, down to the water on the West, where another owner on the Prince Edward side has been cutting trees and proposing to put up half a dozen houses, a development bitterly resisted by some other property owners along the Carrying Place.

From the front porch of the Young (now McLean) house one would never know that all this development was in the air, that the railroad runs right by, some adjoining land was zoned industrial, but

the Youngs had a big tannery on their property during much of the nineteenth century.

The Young house is one of the oldest at the Carrying Place. The west wing or shed where Mrs. McLean has her antique shop is thought to be 1811. The right-hand parlour retains many traces that make such a date plausible: deep blue paint has been found on the trim and the baseboards were originally black. The dainty mantelpiece has some shallowly incised carving that makes one think of the black slate gravestones of that very era.

The house was divided, possibly as early as the 1880s, with a partition across the central hall upstairs and down and an extra staircase at the front, but this has now been removed. Before that, probably (to judge by the style) in the 1850s when Reuben Young was first operating his tannery, the left-hand parlour was extended to take in the slip-room(s) behind, where Sarah Ann Young had once had her bedroom according to an 1831 will. The enlarged room received a plaster cornice and new and grander trim, including a large mantelpiece to suit the new scale of the room.

It must have been at the same time, the 1850s we suppose, that the matching mantel was put into the cellar kitchen below. Why, though, is hard to imagine, for cellar kitchens hereabouts generally just went out of use when stoves came in and cooking moved up to the ground floor. This mantel shows no sign of smoke or scorching, and doesn't fit the opening properly, but the fireplace itself was evidently well-used, earlier, by Sarah Ann or her predecessors.

The Young house is one of those with identical façades front and back, a pair of windows to the right and a pair to the left in American fashion, with the centre hall going straight through. It's a large house, but only a storey and a half. The kitchen is in the cellar to the east, under the left-hand parlour, and the back of its oven probably stuck out in a beehive shape: *all this is like the cellar kitchen of the Scott-Greig house of c. 1823 near Cherry Valley, which however is a brick house of the full two storeys.*

The handsome and massive squared floor timbers of the Young-McLean house parlour are fully visible in the cellar kitchen, *one of them even with nicely moulded corners. They span front-to-back, the full depth of the house: no wonder the floors slope. In the Scott-Greig house the joists*

run the other way, and most of them are sawn, evidently not being meant for show at all.

The Young-McLean house is a frame house, clapboarded, and the back of the fireplace in the east parlour forms a masonry patch flush with the clapboards, as in the Whitfield house between Belleville and Foxboro, and as can no longer be seen in the McIntosh-Ridley house in Belleville (altered) and the Dr. Marshall house in Belleville (destroyed). This feature occurred originally, too, in the Haight-Patterson house at Niles Corners (see *ACORN XII-3*, p.3), but was changed

long ago. Both the Allan Macpherson house, c. 1826 in Napanee and the Fairfield White house, 1793 near Collins Bay also exhibit this detail.

Our official number for this tour is sixty-six, a very good attendance for the hot months of the year. The August tour was of the Fairfield house at the opposite end of the Loyalist Parkway, and September's of Front Street in Belleville. November's was in Brighton.

Next year's tours were more or less laid out at the Branch Council's quarterly meeting on July 26. Notable will be a tour

we have been asked by Sidney Township to give in September 1990 in celebration of their two hundredth anniversary. We think we'll have to hire a bus for that, and maybe take more than one day.

Rodger Greig, Acorn Editor for the Quinte Region Branch and a retired high school teacher, regrets that he was not able to bring to this issue that area's school heritage, but he deserves special mention here because of his contributions to our last issue on The Cultural Landscape; due mention was inadvertently omitted then.

PORT HOPE

Local conservation activity continues with the Customs House exterior restored and interior refurbishing as a publishing house for Century Home, among other magazines. This handsome building, one of the earlier structures of Port Hope's great building boom from the third quarter of the nineteenth century, had stood forlorn on Mill Street around the corner of Walton, and very visible above the east bank of the Ganaraska: it again takes its rightful place.

Meanwhile owners Joan and Don Rumgay, who also have No. 1 Walton Street, the handsome 1845 corner block next door, have discovered during their work on the

latter building some interesting wall stencilling. The removal of the flood-damaged 1877 Post Office block adjacent to it had revealed an old advertisement painted on the west wall. The building is reputed to have been constructed as an hotel and had a large bakeoven in the basement. A cupola crowned the centre of the Walton Street front. A more recent balcony around the building had to be removed. The block had been converted into apartments with stores on the ground floor along Walton Street, one for many years a Chinese restaurant which had once had a finely divided shopfront executed in black walnut.

You may remember two Port Hope landmarks in your recent Sunday entertainment - as the backdrops to episodes of the Road to Avonlea aired by CBC. Penryn Park's drawing room featured in one and Hillendale also. If you remember those houses you would certainly have recognized them.

Studies of space requirements for Port Hope's town staff, as a prerequisite to consideration of the future of the 1851 Town Hall, are now underway. There seems to be agreement that the old building, rebuilt after a drastic fire gutted the interior in 1891, will feature as a vital part of any new scheme. However it would seem that the proposal to move the bandshell, a much more recent structure standing behind, to the Agricultural Fair Grounds may be a preparatory precaution to allow for office expansion.

The struggle to have designated details, such as a Palladian dormer window and original sash and porch elements, restored to Hillcrest continues. But LACAC is being supported here by Town Council recognizing that this is a building designated under part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Further area news includes the Conservation Review Hearing concerning the designation of Wesleyville United Church by Hope Township LACAC. The outcome will be noted in a subsequent Acorn issue.

For more news of the general area read of Cobourg's enterprises in Letters to the Editor.

The Customs House on Mill Street, with No. 1 Walton Street behind.

PJS Photo



At the 11 November 1989 Council Meeting a further report of the Advisory Board was presented as follows:

Howard Chapman has completed a report on two residences and one factory, all in Newmarket, for Mr. Terry Carter, Editor of *Newmarket Town Crier*.

Christopher Borgal has completed a report on a stone building in Ayr - an early cheese factory now used as a stable - which he reports is a valuable example of early industry. The report has been forwarded to the North Dumfries LACAC.

We responded to the appeal from the William Morris Society regarding St. Thomas Anglican Church, St. Catharines. Unfortunately, Peter Stokes and Norman Macdonald, local architect, advised that we could not influence local decisions which had hardened by the time we were made aware of the problem.

In late September we were contacted by Mr. R. Murison, owner of a stone mill in Campbellford. He was considering adapting the mill - now 75% unused - to residential use but was concerned with its structure. The building was surveyed by my partner and a report issued on October 17, 1989.

On October 26th, we were contacted by Mr. G. Watt of Sacred Heart Church, Harwood and asked to prepare a report on its structure since there was concern about the bowing of the wall. Alan Zeegen, P.Eng., visited the site and prepared a report which was verbally reviewed with Mr. Watt on Nov. 10th and will be forwarded shortly. Unfortunately there are serious problems which require prompt remedial work.

On November 2 we were contacted by Mr. Mark Warrack of Mississauga LACAC and asked for an assessment of the Old Methodist Parsonage, Streetsville. Since a hearing will be held November 13th, the request was urgent. On November 4 Spencer Higgins and I visited the site and Spencer undertook to forward a report directly to Mr. Warrack.

On October 16 we were contacted by Mrs. E. Black of the West Lincoln LACAC and asked to look over two buildings in Smithville, the TH & B Railway Station and a commercial building, to assist in preparing a designation report. Mr. Carel Kippers visited the sites on October 27th and we are awaiting his report.

We have received several other inquiries which have not been formalized by a written request and have not assigned

members to them:

1854 Maple Grove Farm,
Otonabee Township
c. 1900 Industrial Building, Oshawa
1865 Blacksmith Shop, Town of Milton

In late October we were asked to prepare a report on the Elgin Schoolhouse, Norwood, Ontario. Roy Turner inspected the building in early November and has submitted a report to me for review before formally replying to the owners.

On October 2nd I attended a meeting in Brantford with Audrey Scott of ACO Brant, Alistair MacLaine, Brantford Architect, and several local citizens, to inspect a house at 291 Erie Avenue, Brantford. The house is threatened by a redevelopment scheme involving demolition of the house and building multiple housing. The house was an interesting but not architecturally exceptional example of circa 1910 domestic design. Mrs. Scott's efforts, supported by Mr. MacLaine and ourselves, has resulted in the project being shelved.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Moffet
Chairman

Commentary

It is strange how some people, seemingly well-informed and apparently highly intelligent, take such a strange attitude towards the provisions and possibilities of the Ontario Heritage Act. Or so it seems to others of us who view that piece of legislation, woefully inadequate as it often is when the chips begin to fall, at least as moral support to what is now perhaps an old-fashioned approach, an oft-discarded value of our world, namely that we, as individuals, during our brief time-span on this planet, are here to take care, as best we can, of what we inherit, to protect it, to conserve it, to enhance it. Who ever said that it was a God-given right to make a mess of it, to despoil it, to ruin it for others who must follow?

Yet not long ago we heard from one professional, who should have thought more clearly, that he considered the suggestion of designating the interior detail of an historic house an unwarranted restriction upon the individual owner or tenant. Designation of the exterior was apparently acceptable, however. This is the hollow shell effect promoted earlier on in the warming up period of applying the Act. How many simple exteriors, particularly in houses of the Loyalist neo-Classic style, belie the delicate yet resplendent detail of their interiors. We shall remember a case

in point during that exercise of long ago - Measured Drawing at the School of Architecture, University of Toronto - where our respected Professor Eric Aurthur pronounced a simple storey-and-a-half frame house, albeit covered in cement-asbestos shingle, as far too simple to be worth measuring. Yet it had been built in 1816-17, and had a remarkable complement of original interior trim, lacking only one simple mantelpiece of its collection of seven. We disobeyed the master, and had it measured anyway, and it was an excellent exercise for the student undertaking it, and a very worthwhile record to boot.

Yet more distressing to some of us is the wish-washy, or its it mealy-mouthed or plainly timid approach of some municipalities to the designation of buildings under Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act. There is nothing in the Act to suggest that buildings must be volunteered for designation before procedures to do so are initiated. Consequently there are communities, Niagara-on-the-Lake and its old Town of Niagara area not the least, where despite a remarkable collection of early buildings well worth designation there is perhaps the lowest ratio of designated structures. What is almost equally embarrassing is the owner of an old building, perhaps of lesser merit coming forward seeking designation in order to take advantage of designated property grants for conservation purposes. On the face of it there is nothing wrong with that action, it is just that it tends to turn the apple cart upside down, the good apples formerly on top tend to be buried by the lesser fruit from below. Just to set the record straight, however, Niagara-on-the-Lake is pursuing one designation, that of the Butler House, despite a new owner's objections, and the Conservation Review Board held a hearing recently to determine an appropriate recommendation.

Equally upsetting is the mixed, and usually negative, reaction by churches to the Ontario Heritage Act and its provisions and support, both moral and financially, the latter a special consideration for buildings continuing in religious use. Strangely no particular denomination seems consistent, each having its strong supporters who take advantage of the Act, with excellent results, others who strenuously object and go their own way usually with disastrous consequences. Take Holy Trinity, Chippawa, the Anglican church designed by John G. Howard in 1840, where the ocular window over the entrance, an architectural feature of great distinction, was badly weathered and partly decayed. It was almost replaced by a plastic substitute with engraved lines attempting to

simulate the curvilinear intersecting glazing bars. That is until a parishioner, Mrs. Weightman, blew the whistle loud and clear and called for help, recognizing that that feature was significant. Now that detail has been restored, with the help of a designated property grant, to protect the designation and the church.

Yet St. Thomas's in St. Catharines saw fit to persuade City Council not to designate the front wall at the foot of Church Street in that city so that it could make the radical change of a new entrance. This apparently after replacing the pews of that late nineteenth century pile on which many thousands of dollars, obtained from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, were spent on restoring the turrets and their conical roofs. True the new entrance favours handicapped access, follows a design by a creditable architect, and perhaps with a little softening by Virginia creeper may look a little more subtle. Or take St. Mark's in Niagara-on-the-Lake where a three-ply wood shingled roof, with appropriate technical details as recommended in the ACO's commentary on shingling, was replaced recently by a two-and-half ply substitute without proper detailing and compromised by interlayers of building paper.

Even more disheartening is St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in that same town, which has embarked on the renewal of its original sash. From the outside the new versions are coarse by comparison; from the inside the profile is radically different from the original: no one, it seems, is sufficiently attuned, visually, to note the difference. And this building is of national importance, was the subject of preservation in the late 1930s under Professor Eric Arthur. Since we have accepted even higher standards of conservation today it seems strange, not to say discouraging, that those in charge and others knowledgeable should have permitted such reprehensible destruction, especially when accurate duplication is possible. But then the same denomination saw to tired brick, has a remarkable and virtually complete mid-Victorian interior with a gallery on three sides, the original pews and a ceiling with deeply coved edge and vaulted centre with decorative trusses. Although the mid-Victorian decoration has been obliterated by modern paint - in "church beige" - and the cherubs overhead and decorative stencilling on the walls recorded on an old photograph of the interior have disappeared to modern view and a newer organ loft slightly at odds in blonde oak and oversized pipes has been inserted, all this might be reversible. The City of Mississauga recommended design-

nation of the church exterior (the interior is nevertheless equally, if not more, important), and also the parsonage at the other corner of the property, the latter a handsome house of the early 1880s, forming an admirable accompaniment to the two delightful polychrome brick cottages across Barry Street. A Conservation Review Board hearing had to be adjourned, those representing the congregation suggesting that the parsonage was, because of its condition, beyond redemption, which both a separate report and another from the ACO's Advisory Board disavowed. Not only that but the church representatives brought forward an alternative scheme for the church itself, namely to designate only the east front (shades, or is it shadows, of façadism), allowing the building to be extended westwards and northwards, to destroy completely that wonderful interior that is part of our heritage and theirs. Adding insult to such injury it was suggested that architectural details cannibalized from the older parts destroyed in the process might be used in the walls of the new structure. What a travesty! Church representatives were broaching their views directly to City Council: we hope that that body dealt with the threat appropriately and supported LACAC and more.

More about churches and their problems and the saving of so-called redundant religious buildings will be the subjects of a forthcoming issue of Acorn.

PJS

Farewell to an Editor Welcome the New

It is time for a change. After only two Editors-in-Chief in fourteen years we need to pass on the responsibility to another who can carry Acorn on to new depths and breadths to keep our readers and members not only up to date, but the journal informative, challenging and, we trust, a trifle amusing still.

Our association with Acorn has been a rewarding one, time and expense-consuming notwithstanding. The help and contributions of Branch editors has been most important and their response to special subjects as well as the contributions

of their colleagues have made Acorn grow. In our hands it has been, however, a very simple operation devoid of most of the modern technological and electronic assistance available. That may have to change especially with a view to cutting down the time and energy expended on the journal to help cut rising costs. We trust, nevertheless, that the personal touch will not be lost and that continuing care to keep and improve its standards of presentation will still be the motto. It needs too to be organized tightly to keep copy flowing in on time to provide continuity as only our other Editor-in-Chief, Marion Walker Garland, could do.

There have been experiments of late which seemed to prove worthwhile: it needs a longer range plan to map out future directions and make the necessary preparations well in advance to solicit copy and organize future issues. Improvements in set-up have been initiated under the guidance of Spencer Higgins, Chairman of the Acorn Editorial Committee. At a recent meeting of that committee, at which your founding and present, but interim, Editor-in-Chief announced his retirement from the post, more than half of the Branch editors were able to attend and discuss future possibilities. One point was unanimously carried, namely that Acorn should continue, as the ACO's journal, concentrating more and more on theme subjects, technical articles geared to the more general readership of our broadly based organization, commentaries and news, both from Branches and across Ontario. We say, therefore, watch Acorn grow, an OAK (Ontario's Architectural Kaleidoscope?) may be on its way.

It is not entirely without regret that we shed the mantle and hand it to someone else: the time, the energy, the effort and the careful handling it deserves need to be passed on for another to conjure with. This is the time.

And so many thanks for your help and support. You will understand from some of the sentiment expressed in this issue that there are still some who truly wonder what Ontario, and Canada for that matter, is really all about. There was once a suggestion, we believe somewhat tongue-in-cheek by the younger Anthony Adamson, that entertaining "devil" of our own youth, the professor, raconteur, author, mentor, protagonist and gentle, though formidable, adversary, that much would be better with an *informed oligarchy*, that democracy was all very well but _____. We are inclined to agree if trust in such a

system were implicit, but if current alliances of power and bureaucracies are any indication it has one signal failing for the human element and all its vagaries persist. As we once mentioned to a client, perfection is an earthly pursuit and a heavenly attainment. We have already noted elsewhere what some aspects of hell are. *Au revoir.*

We bid you welcome, Marg Rowell, as Acorn's new Editor-in-Chief.

Windows: The Eyes of a Building

Though many are concerned with the form and silhouette of a building or even its architectural decoration how few, architects included, seem to be sensitive to details of fenestration, particularly the modulation of openings by mullions, muntins or transoms. But the lesson is easily learnt on the site of a historic restoration: in Upper Canada Village we noted how much the proper subdivision of sash into stock glass sizes contemporary with the date of the building brought back its essential character. From sash of two panes over two to twelve over twelve or twelve over eight as the case might be immediately re-established that early nineteenth century appearance and restored a Loyalist neo-Classical dignity to a Victorian non-entity.

There is nevertheless a reverse snobbery being practised today where smaller panes are often inserted incorrectly in the front of buildings where much-divided sash are found at the back. When larger glass became more plentiful and less expensive this was used in the "superior" parts of the house, the principal front, the smaller, cheaper panes often relegated to the rear or an "inferior" part such as a kitchen wing. Thus a false antiquity is created, as in a well-known Newburgh building. Hence one can never be absolutely sure that small-paned sash substantiate an earlier date of building: large and small panes may be contemporary. Later alterations too can use larger glass: to re-create multi-paned or "paneiful" sash is definitely out. So is the practice of putting small panes where they never existed: this misadventure, like others such as adding gingerbread to late Edwardian "plain Janes", is known in the trade as "earlying-up". But the most blatant case of the current inverted snobbery previously referred to is the use of small-paned sash in the main house and larger panes in the garage wing! How many examples have you seen by builders of expensive pseudo-traditional designs?

The rot, however, is spreading to more modern buildings and we believe some comment on this is due before we lose all sense of propriety at the expense of retrofitting and current modernity. Take the case of the Toronto Harbour Commission Building on Lakeshore, erected in 1912 to the designs of Chapman and McGiffen. This handsome Beaux Arts Classical building was originally graced with that firm's characteristic bronze window divided into six lights, some operating casements or transoms for ventilation, with two intermediate mullions and a horizontal transom bar above the centre line of the opening. This created a human scale related to the total design and its component architectural detail of Classical inspiration. Not only was a mechanical penthouse added as a discreet topknot to the building, but the original windows were replaced by single-light, tinted glass: the building now looks rather like a clown after a hard night out at a waterside bar.

Another case in varying stages of corruption or devolution, whichever way you may wish to look at it, is a more mundane loft building in the garment, pardon me, Fashion, district, specifically at the north-east corner of Spadina and Adelaide West in Toronto. Here the original sash, like many other office buildings of the late 1920s and 1930s in downtown, still hangs in some of the openings of this rather handsome and, it would seem, architect-designed structure. The first mutation seems to be a strange manifestation of late Art Deco, or is it rationalized Mondrian, where the opening is sub-divided into narrow side and head panels with smaller squares blanked in, the whole in a light copper green. This is a rather busy effect and not as handsome as the original, but definitely better than the blank stares now overtaking many of the window openings.

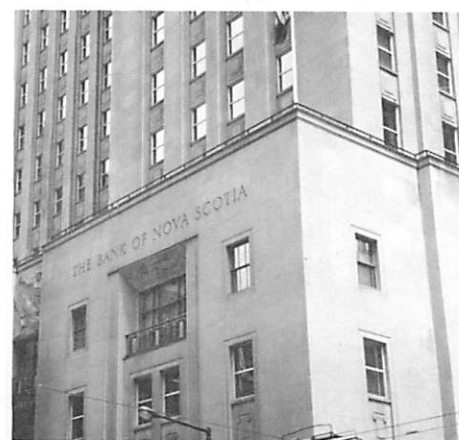
Most disheartening recently, however, has been the robbery of the old Bank of Nova Scotia Building by Mathers and Haldenby built in 1951 at the north-east corner of King West and Bay Streets, replacing, as some of us remember, that wonderful Cawthra House of 1851 designed by Joseph Sheard. At the hands of modernity it has just received, we consider, unjust deserts in the replacement of its metal double-hung windows, each sash divided into three panes, so much in tune with the rest of the building and in a muted colour, by brash, coarse, bright aluminum horrors with single panes. Take a look when you next go by - you may welcome the change; but there is no accounting for taste!



Toronto Harbour Commission Building, 1912
Chapman & McGiffin, Architects.
The transomed tri-partite fenestration replaced in modern times with smoky stares.



The Balfour Building, 1930, Benjamin Brown, Architect, north-east corner Spadina Avenue and Adelaide Street West, Toronto.
Windows in transition: the top range and some elsewhere the original pattern, most of those down the corners in an intermediate stage of Art Deco form, the blank single panes modern.



The Bank of Nova Scotia Building, 1951, Mathers and Haldenby, Architects. Detail of fenestration being changed from the well-scaled, subtle, divided sash original to bright and brash substitutes by a successor.

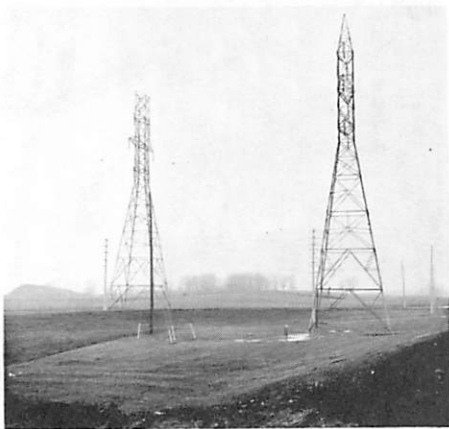
PJS



The Brave New World?

In travelling through the so-called Toronto-centred region, no credit to Toronto will it ever be in our estimation, the mayhem of poorly controlled, ill-planned and visually disturbing development is thoroughly depressing. We can't wait for its obsolescence and sensitive and more rational redevelopment. *Laissez-faire* without design restraint is a disaster: our considered ode to Mississauga indicates a common problem, and this despite attempts to control development, obviously insufficiently. The mayor of Mississauga has noted some of it has been designed by architects: we add too little and most of it in total isolation or so it seems, rather like a group of students developing their schemes for a common site without a project captain to coordinate their design responses. So much for talent and the *prima donna* danger.

However it is the process of development that seems so horrible (horrendous?) bordering on the macabre. Look at any land slated for building, whether for subdivisions of housing, so-called business parks or industrial areas: virtually not a cubic inch of soil, taking eons to create naturally in a



Progress and peace - or is it? The hold-out from the Mavis Road overpass to Highway 403, looking north.

highly complex matrix of interdependent ingredients and components capable of producing growth for food, for beauty, for guarding our natural environment, is left undisturbed. Most of it is transported elsewhere to try to restore the last destroyed landscape, at entirely artificial levels and contours most likely. Is this not a tragedy? Where are the environmentalists? Is it from their apparent silence condoned? The urbanization of southern Ontario's agricultural lands, the tender fruitlands of the Niagara peninsula not the least, is an irreversible trend it would seem under all levels of government. There appears to be no carefully considered long-range plan, duly considered for its long-term let alone side effects. The Toronto-centred Region Plan seems simply an invitation to callous development. All right for a nation of wasters, nay squanderers, who do not seem to care. Where did the notion of our being custodians of this planet, while we live out our brief span upon Earth, go?

For we have already lost our natural heritage: that happened some 150 to 200 years ago in the clearing of our native forests, the cutting down and burning of our own "Amazonian jungle". Yes people who live in glass-houses they say shouldn't throw stones. But apparently you can no longer achieve a Rosedale, a Moore Park, or a Kingsway, let alone a Rockcliffe, nor a Lindenlea or a Thorncrest Village and preserve substantially a natural landscape with its major component, trees. Marion Garland's recent reference to the despoilation of Port Hope's ravines heralds a new insensitivity. Have you travelled recently through Toronto's burgeoning suburbs, the high tide of development sweeping through them? So many are dead deserted "beaches" with curious isolated piles like children's sand castles, with stake as flag on top, poised to be swept away by the final pass of a bulldozer blade. The strand of desert subsoil, carved to favour artificial drainage, doublegaraged suburbia and wormlike pavement all carefully guttered, or glistening office towers and sprawling commercial condos squatting under the Concorde's cruel cry, is everywhere.

Coming down the lower base line in Peel between the old and newer surveys of the now almost forgotten Toronto Township we came across two fascinating survivals. One on the south side of Eglinton West opposite the end of McLaughlin Road is an agricultural hold-out, an open acreage with well-kept house and attractive barn complex. The farm lot once stretched to Burnhamthorpe to the south but was ruthlessly amputated by 403 and a Hydro

transmission corridor, part we believe of the so-called Parkway West. (What a misnomer!). The owner, a long-time farmer in the area, still works the land and keeps livestock and very wisely had new residential neighbours waive any right of objection to his good, natural, agricultural odours.

Not too far away we have noticed another farm parcel resisting development, but from a distance seemingly abandoned. Anxious to compare local sites and buildings in efforts to bring more to the conservation of the Britannia School Farm project and even hoping to find sources of material for the reconstruction of the Gardner/Dunton House and its lost wing, we determined to investigate further. The farmstead occupies a knoll set far back from the road, the house towards the front, the barns behind, trees around and an orchard to one side. There was a mailbox out front, but the gates to the farm were closed, the place always appeared impregnable, and at least part of the house had been boarded up for some considerable time. It was hard to see whether the house was inhabited or not: from a distance it looked abandoned though still secure. There were some signs that age was taking its toll of farm buildings but they were still standing as mute reminders of the local heritage. The season was mid-winter, the snow of several weeks before largely melted, the day barely sustaining the remaining ice and promoting pools of water, drab dank grass and blackened weed stalks. As we left the Dundas the fog was rolling up the old lakeshore in a damp enveloping shroud, clammy and cold. There was just time, to avoid too the miserable rush hour maelstrom of rude inter-traffic dodgems commuting wildly back to their pads in ruburbia, to make a sortie to this site, despite the slight misgivings of its fortress-like impression.

Laneway gated and that route rather long it seemed better to approach from the side, parking at the end of a newly paved but underdeveloped site on the recently subdivided land adjacent. The way was through the pear part of the orchard, the apple trees nearer the road. Newly disturbed mud marred the path through a half-broken gate in the corner to the end of the lane as it turned around the house and back to the barnyard. The drive had been gravelled relatively recently with crushed stone, seemingly alien. The house was a complicated outline of Peel polychromed brick, possibly of the mid to late 1860s, perhaps not all built at one time. A section towards front was boarded up, but there

was glass in the windows towards the back, bright and clean and clear, with old-fashioned curtains within: that part was obviously inhabited for it is impossible to abandon any Mississauga building without incurring vandalism almost immediately. We measured the warm red brick of its walls, a varied shade of medium red in a size common to the area and a little thicker, fortunately in this experience, than we needed for other purposes.

Yes we noted the sign about the dog, beware it indicated; we saw the pickup poised on its ramp; we enjoyed the tranquillity of the place as we closed our ears to the drumming whine of vehicles snaking their way past beyond the knoll to the south. The light was fading, the mist adding yet another mysterious dimension to the scene. We walked on, past a window with light within, and knocked on the door next to it, for our previous knock at what must have been to the front door of the back part of the house had not been answered: the rural convention of the back door as the entrance of modern convenience was accepted for it was handy to barn and truck. A leaf of the woodshed door opened and there standing in the darkening opening was a farmer gentleman never to be forgotten. (The distinction between this personage and the so-called gentleman-farmer in surrounding areas was as day to night). Not only was he handsome but work-worn and kindly, despite a reputation we learnt of later that he was a frightening experience for unwanted trespassers. He was obviously as keen as a judge of spirit as he obviously was of horseflesh or cattle from long experience. This man, in the light of the gathering gloam, was almost an apparition, a strong countenance, a sparkling eye, dressed in down-to-earth, tawny tones that Schiaparelli might never have conceived as so suitable an ensemble. His frame almost filled the opening, but beyond we could see hanging up old harness, well-dressed and appearing ready to use. We noticed on the woodshed door, below its lossening barn-red finish, the unmistakable diaper pattern of red and white diamonds of a traditional design still clearly evident.

A greeting, a brief but thorough sizing up and our conservation, we think between new friends, or at least one old-timer and his newly found and fascinated admirer. Obviously we were recognized as neither developer nor local official, just an inquisitive passer-by who had dared in fact to trespass and knock on his door. Our business card confirmed who we were. Maybe, he knew a conservationist at heart, or came to the conclusion from his



Peace preserved, but not protected, development threatening all around. The Eglinton West/Mavis Road hold-out showing the farmstead crowning the knoll, the lane to the right, the black walnut grove to the left with the barns behind.

experiences of a long and apparently peaceful life farming. But he did not want to give up, to sell out to development: where would he live, what would be his life, his work? He still kept a few cattle in the old barn, an ell-shaped grouping of considerable age, one section clapboarded. Large trees were about the house, the entrance lane tree-lined. Our friend pointed out with pride to the neatly serried rows of the black walnut grove planted by his father, the trees now tall, dark skeletons against a grey-blue dusky sky. The swirling wreath of the lakeshore fog spun a mysterious veil over the scene, the moon glowed faintly through the treetops. We closed our ears to all sound but our friend's voice, of commentary, of question, of wondering, as we did, about the great changes so rapidly wrought by other's prosperity to his peaceful world.

It was then that the poignancy of his recent experiences hit home. Near the "front" door of his old house was an iron pump over a well. He explained the reason for the gravel in the driveway and

the muddy patch we had encountered on our way in: development and the drastic and extensive reshaping of adjacent land had affected his aquifer and deprived him of an essential to life, fresh water from the earth. Robbery, rape or merely murder, what can you call it? It saddened and sickened us further, enraged us at the unfairness and catastrophic deprivation this represented. Oh yes, he had to have City water piped in, at no cost to himself of course, done by the developers nearby and the municipality, no doubt. But it was no longer his own water from below the earth which he tended.

It is time to recover from the shock. Does development necessarily mean such pillage? Are we as a community, as a province, as a nation responsible enough to reconsider all the implications of our headlong acceptance of prosperity and its money-driven greed and destruction? Can we ever become respectful custodians of our world? Is there any possibility that consideration will ever become a real life force or are we wasting our effort and time?

Just for your benefit, think about it and judge for yourselves. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario has survived for over fifty years. Has it grown in proportion with the the increase of population? If it continues to be a constructive voice in what appears to be a market-devised environmental destruction can the process be reversed, redirected or even slowed? Time to sign off - obviously!

PJS



Postscript:

Not even a month passed before the development sign was posted: our farmer-gentleman succumbed, perhaps to the inevitable, taking it, as so many born farmers do these days, quite philosophically - *c'est la vie!* Maybe that was why he received us with such civility that late afternoon.

PJS Photos

Trenton Town Hall and Market House, 1861. Kivas Tully, Architect

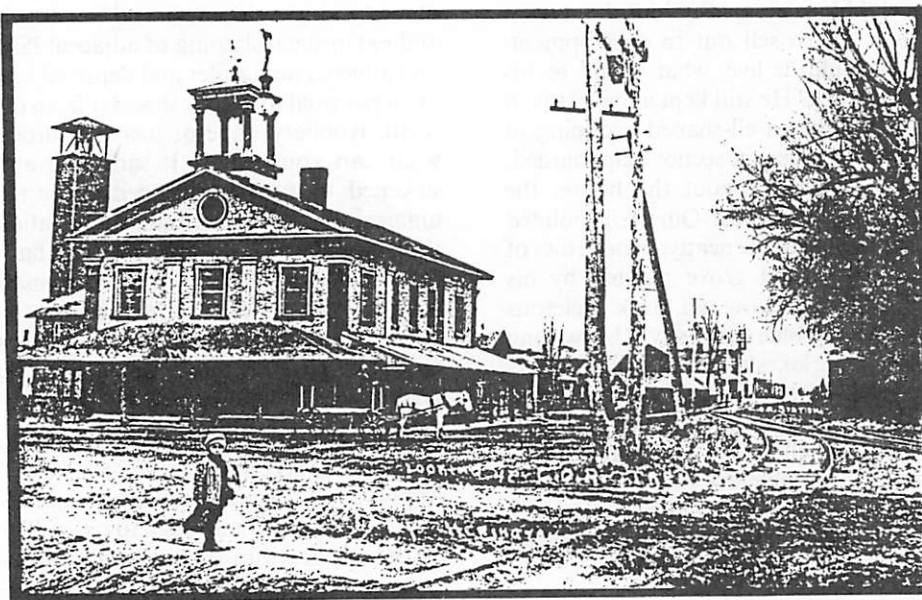
The recent study completed for the treatment and continued use of the Trenton Town Hall and Market House involved both documentary research and building archaeology to determine its building history, physical condition and evolution to its more recent and rather sorrier state. Uses were explored for it, mainly with the building restored to its original design with the possible retention of a later single-storey south extension. That situation has been changed somewhat by the removal of the latter by the City works force when time and lack of other work permitted.

Uses considered were generally related to minimal disturbance of the restored fabric,

and those favoured had a strong commitment to continued public use. That preferred related to the old building as a component of the proposed new Public Library, a conclusion drawn in the study on that subject completed by the Leman Group Inc., architects and planners of Toronto, in mid 1989. A second use suggested, with a similar bent, envisaged the Old Town Hall and Market House as the formal part of a new City Hall complex. (The present City Hall occupies the third floor of a parking garage, reached by an elevator in the stone tower surviving from the old Post Office on the main street, and is now spreading into other quarters, such as the Dufferin Centre in the old public school some way off). Both these uses involved the treatment of the

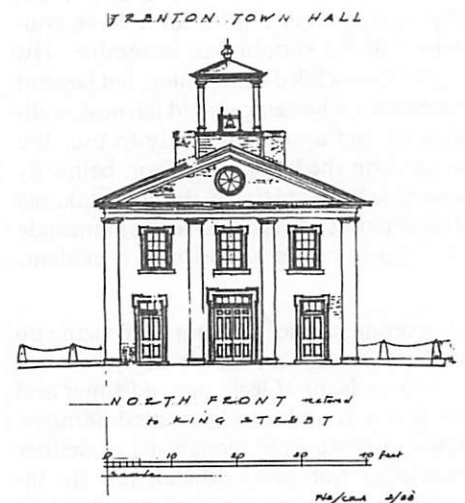
old Town Hall's site, currently a very popular and well-used public parking lot, the City Hall and other functions involving the creation of a specially but reasonably simply finished forecourt as a small urban space best described as a piazza. This would have provided for parking too. The library scheme produced a marvellous civic square as a new public focus for downtown Trenton. Some locally seemed to disagree, particularly local merchants, despite a surfeit of parking, and some of it still free and within reasonable distance. But that is to be expected in a smaller community not yet driven to downtown and midtown Toronto extremes.

Trenton's Town Hall and Market House was designed by Kivas Tully the year after

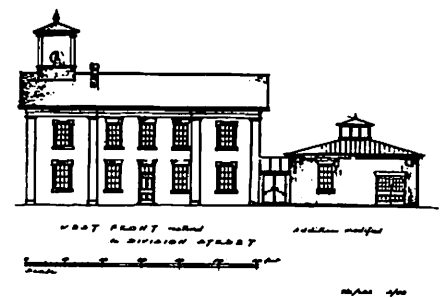
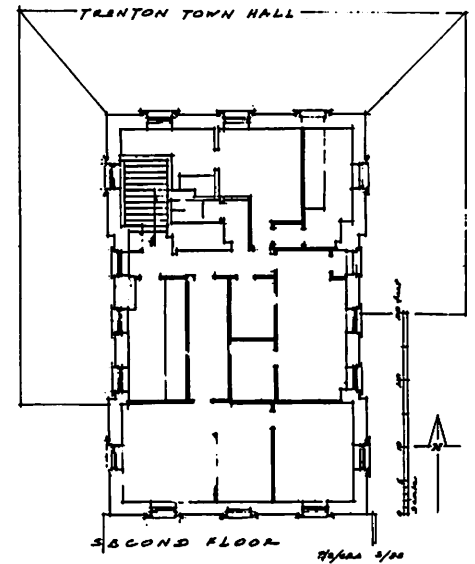
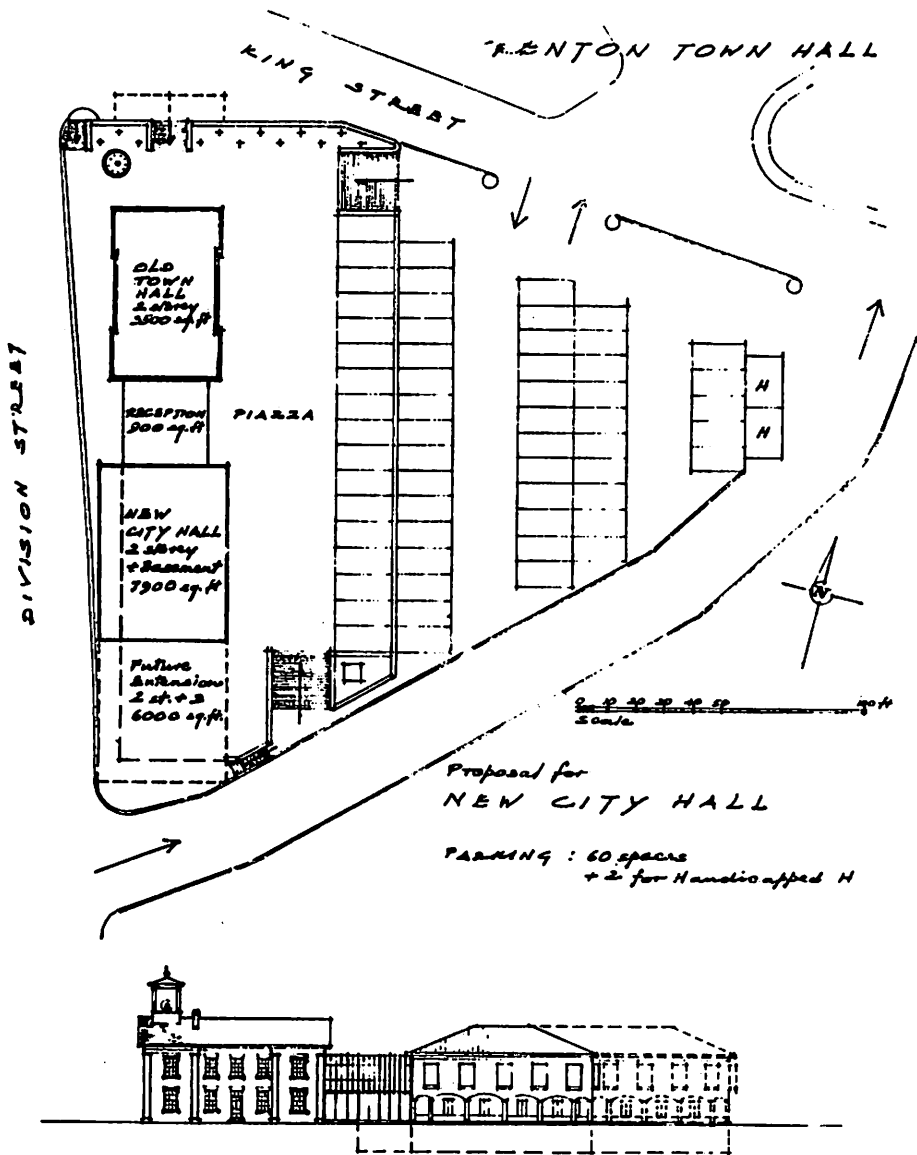
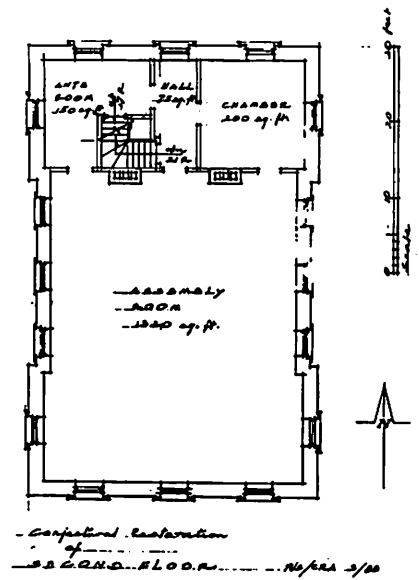
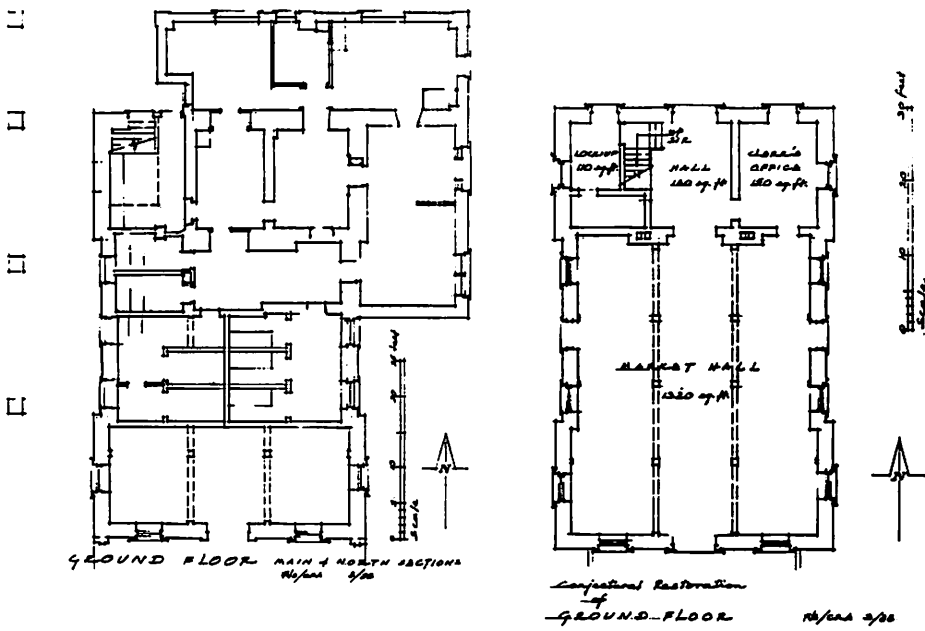


View of Trenton Town Hall and Market House, taken c. 1905 by Herington, from the north-west showing the piazza extensions for the market.

Courtesy Trent Port Historical Society.



Sketch of north front, the main entrance, restored, Trenton Town Hall and Market House, 1861, Kivas Tully.



West front restored, showing modifications suggested to former south addition.

Proposal for a new Trenton City Hall incorporating the old Town Hall: site plan and building massing.

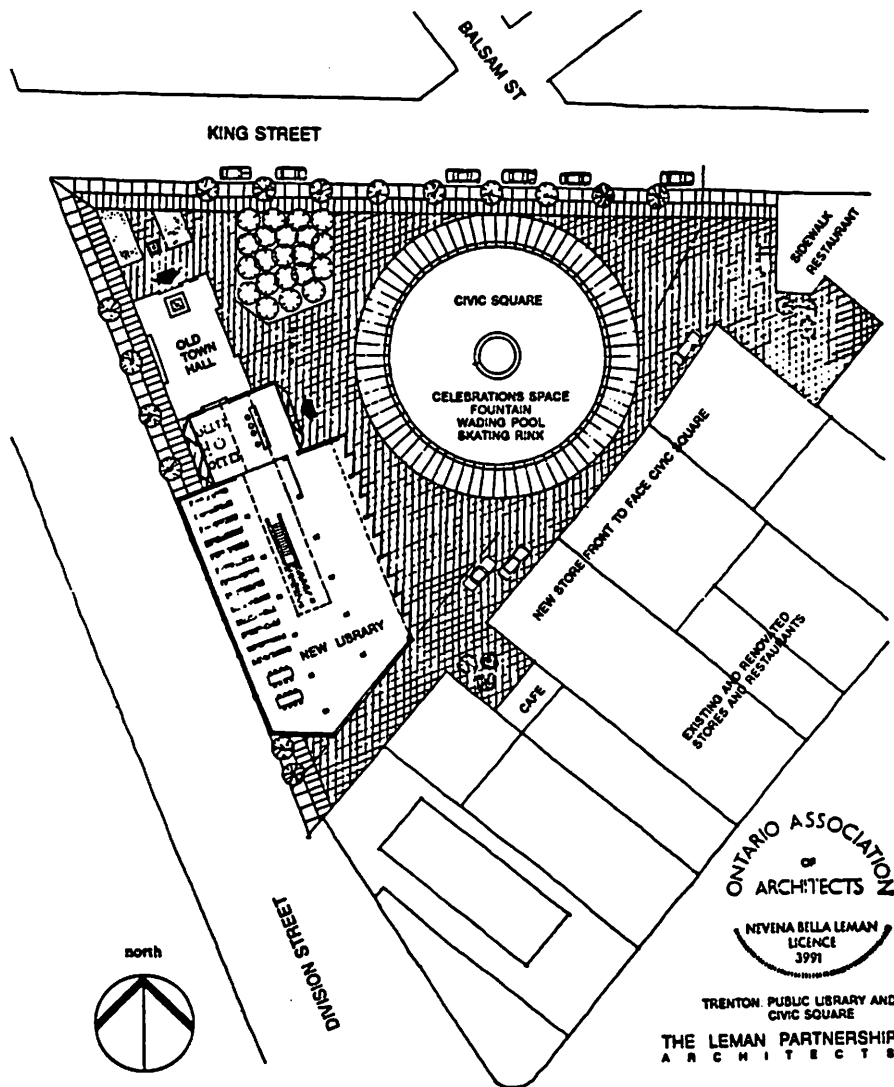


Fig. 6-1 The New Library Within the Civic Square

LEMAN GROUP INC.

A new Civic Square for Trenton: the landscape plan for the proposed scheme to use the Old Town Hall and Market House as part of the new public library. Courtesy the Leman Group, Architects and Planners and the Trenton Public Library Board.

he had completed his *magnum opus*, Victoria Hall in Cobourg. It is a complete swing of the pendulum, both in size and conception. Yet it bears the mark of that imaginative gentleman, and after careful examination and research enabling its restoration to be contemplated, at least on paper, it is indeed a rather endearing smaller Tully work. And it must have served its purpose, at the outset, and have provided the needed space initially at not too exorbitant a cost and not too high an over-run. (Maybe Tully thereby recovered his reputation, recently battered by his Victoria Hall experience).

But as so often happens the original designer appears never to have been consulted in subsequent changes and additions: more's the pity for the alterations were not entirely sympathetic to the original even though of interest historically. A first change, however, complemented the interior when a dais and balustraded enclosure with other Council Chamber furniture were added in the later 1860s. Then in 1879 an open verandah was extended to front and both sides to provide extra market space. This, called a *piazza* in the Council minutes, was a wide roof from below the second floor windows supported

on turned columns, and may have been constructed in two sections, the north front portion first, the sides later. But this, forever, compromised the simple, straightforward design by Tully. With its strong Greek Revival detail and pedimented gable roof, corner pilasters and eared trim to fronts and side pavilion openings the original building had an undeniable dignity, a true civic presence. The composition was crowned by a large belfry and double chimney stacks serving stoves.

The original structure is of two storeys without a basement, but the capacious roof space was originally accessible for dead storage and, of course, reaching the bell. The main entrances faced north, a subsidiary entrance from the south to the large market house occupying two thirds of the ground floor. Many changes have occurred over the years, particularly more recently as the original use ceased and alternative functions took over, especially in its later life as a police station. The earlier rather seemly *piazza* was replaced by a high roofed, clumsier detail supported by stone columns, part of it filled in later for office space, some of it torn down. Finally late in 1989 both south extension and these additions were removed, after the open sections of the porch had been taken down earlier; now the building, despite the loss of some of its significant but easily traceable detail, is once more the shape and recognizable as the design Kivas Tully conceived. It was a well constructed building originally and its detail, though simple, boldly treated: its trim, where it survives, and the very carefully weatherstruck jointing of its stonework highlights its quality of execution. Otherwise from its general mistreatment and, more recently, neglect, it would long ago have disappeared. It is still there, desperately waiting to be handled sympathetically and re-used by this and future generations.

The Trent Port Historical Society sponsored the study of the Town Hall and Market House, assisted by a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications, and presented this to City Council in the fall of 1989. So far no further concerted action has ensued apart from the demolitions of later parts already noted; to be a success it still requires commitment, enthusiasm and respect like any worthwhile heritage conservation project. As you may realize from the illustrations Tully's Trenton Town Hall and Market House does have *capabilities*.

Robert H. Hubbard

Earlier this winter Robert H. Hubbard, O.C., M.A., Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S.C., whose latest book *Ample Mansions, The Viceregal Residence of the Canadian Provinces*, to be reviewed in a later issue, had just been published, died at his home in Ottawa. He was born in Hamilton, Ontario, and, earning his B.A. at McMaster University, he subsequently studied at l'Institut d'art et d'archéologie, University of Paris, the Musées royaux de Belgique in Brussels and completed his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin.

He was one of Canada's foremost architectural historians, joining the National Gallery of Canada as Special Lecturer in 1945 he became Curator of Canadian Art in 1947, serving as Chief Curator from 1954 to 1975. He was appointed in 1975 as Cultural Advisor to the Governor General of Canada and since formal retirement had been Honorary Historian at Government House, Ottawa where he also participated in the meetings of various bodies including the Official Residences Design Review Committee which deliberated in cooperation with Her Excellency Jean Sauvé in the refurbishing of the Tent Room at Rideau Hall.

A kindly, knowledgeable and distinguished gentleman who was always a delight to talk to, he will be remembered by many in conservation and creative fields, particularly for his many publications numbering more than two hundred and some dozen books, that entitled *Rideau Hall: An Illustrated History of Government House, Ottawa* (McGill - Queen's, 1977) being one of his most memorable.

Since 1962 Dr. Hubbard had been a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, serving as honorary secretary and as president of its Academy of Humanities and Social Science. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1977.

Winnifred Inderwick

Anyone who was fortunate enough to have enjoyed Mrs. Cyril Inderwick, Winnie to all her friends, will long cherish her memory and the joyful recollection of the great spirit, determination, and forceful good humour of her wonderful personality. Winnie suddenly and sadly died on Twelfth Night last after a long and eventful life mostly enjoyed in her home town of

Perth, Ontario where she had long presided as its doyenne, certainly matters in conservational and historical. She was born Winnifred Shaw in Lanark's county town and educated there; she also attended the McDonald College outside Montreal where she studied domestic science. This is possibly one of the reasons she was later to engage in social work.

After the Second World War she married Cyril Inderwick, one of the founding members of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, then recently discharged from the Royal Navy, and whose famous house was Inge-va, the Harris/Radenhurst/Inderwick House of 1823. Her husband died in 1962 and she bequeathed the house to The Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1974, though continuing to live there until a tragic accident some two years ago made it too difficult for her to stay there permanently.

Winnie was a great morale-booster, a wonderful person to talk to, and with a catchy chuckle very much her own. We well remember her reminder - always uttered to the younger and more foolish - "now do what Winnie says!". On more than one occasion we enjoyed her hospitality, and always felt her kindness and keen interest in our well-being, as many others did. She was always an intrepid traveller, turning up to add her special delight to notable occasions. She was a member and active participant in many museum and conservation organizations, including the Ontario Historical Society, the Ontario Museums Association as well as the ACO. Mrs. Inderwick also attended the early conferences of APT, The Association for Preservation Technology, before that organization became more exclusively technical.

But it is the many stories of her that indicate the power, nay the enduring and endearing quality of her personality. One often quoted is that just after World War I she had a special by-law passed by the Town of Perth, to allow her to drive at the age of fourteen. (She would have driven to the end, had her health and sight not started to fail her latterly). Another was of her walking by the Town Hall one day seeing workmen taking out the original sash of that 1863 Italianate landmark, in preparation for new-fangled double glazing and fake muntins. Winnie looked at the originals, critically noting them to be sound and in remarkably good condition.

She asked if she could have them, saying "You might need them for the restoration of the Town Hall some day", and promptly carried them off to safe storage.

Noted as having supported preservation since her early twenties Winnifred Inderwick commissioned a new museum to be built on the back of the Inge-va property when suddenly the Matheson House of 1840 on Perth's main street was threatened with demolition. This landmark building of the Gore streetscape certainly could not be lost and Winnie turned all her effort to save it and make it Perth's museum; and so it is today, with part of it as a historic house display as well as exhibition space and a later wing, more recently reconstructed for further work and storage space, named for her.

In 1976 Winnifred Inderwick was presented the Award of Honour by Heritage Canada for her support of preservation, particularly in connection with Inge-va and her help in the saving and re-use of the Matheson House and the McMartin House, yet another Perth landmark. It was shortly after this honour that the Town of Perth suddenly awoke to the fact that right there in the community was a person of no mean reputation in the heritage conservation field, and of longstanding, recognized nationally no less. The Town obliged in commemoration, giving a dinner in her honour. It was then that Winnie's importance came to be understood and as she later admitted, it seemed to engender proper respect and even sometimes awe, quite justifiable we would wish to add.

Margaret Tucker

The sad and untimely death of Margaret Tucker late last year has meant the loss of someone who contributed a great deal of energy, effort and support to ACO activities and causes. She was particularly active in the Toronto Region Branch and had been on its executive, serving in many capacities, on the newsletter, as treasurer and as president from 1980 to 1983. Margaret was for many years on the ACO Council in various positions and always brought cheer to the discussions which ensued. Direct, forthright and decisive, her help was always welcomed. Margaret, for many years a school librarian in Scarborough, shared with her husband, Ross, also a teacher, a love of travel: their favourite foreign cities were Helsinki, Vienna and London. Both of them were devoted to music and belonged to the Ontario Field Naturalists.

As a memorial to Margaret Tucker appropriately enough ACT has set up a fund to contribute at least \$1,000 to the City of Scarborough for legal fees in the battle to preserve the Rouge Valley.

Commentary.

Is heritage no longer being created? Does it have to be old, passé perhaps, before it warrants concern? Nothing in the Ontario Heritage Act says so, otherwise newer communities of this province would be discriminated against, and a challenge at law might well result. Neither do we subscribe to that view. Otherwise we would deny ourselves the just recognition of our own landmarks and even Toronto could not acknowledge the importance of its present City Hall, let alone list its myriad later contributions, many sympathetic, to its built fabric.

So where was the City of North York and its LACAC when the house of John C. Parkin became threatened? Now it is no more, merely a memory and we would hope at least in an archives as drawings and photographs. This was a personal statement, a very particular expression in definitive terms by a noted Canadian architect of our time. Perhaps it would not have been everyone's choice, a strong design set out in incontrovertible terms and details is seldom universally acceptable.

But to allow its destruction seems an especially callous deprivation of our cultural heritage. That house, that building, was in fact not only architecturally but also historically significant. Who could deny that?

It is all the sadder to read of the unfortunate pronouncements of the designer responsible for the replacement of the John C. Parkin House, too young, too callow, it would seem to grasp the enormity of the situation. Maybe he will be forgiven, who knows. Yet it would appear that renewal is far from memorable except perhaps to the tenets of this age, not too commendable ones at that.

John C. Parkin will, despite this, be long remembered for his many contributions, not the least his collaboration with other noted architects, such as Revell on the Toronto City Hall¹. We may not admire all his work, every architect has his less decisive and least memorable moments. This writer, every grateful for his kind but relatively silent support on the restoration of the Grange while Phase 2 of the Art Gallery of Ontario expansion proceeded,

has always regretted that the 1913 Carrère and Hastings Bank of Toronto head office at Bay and King was never incorporated into the Miesian scheme of the new T-D Centre. What a foil the two could have been to each other; such was an opportunity sadly lost. Nor could we understand the destruction of Simpson's Art Deco Arcadian Court by Chapman and Oxley and its substitution of "an executive suite away from the executive suite", complete with monstrous illuminated dandelion clocks. However we understand that some of that inadvertence has been redressed recently and that the Arcadian Court is more like its former self: we have yet to view this achievement. However no human being, not even the architect John C. Parkin, was ever perfect, but this does not mean we should allow their better works to be treated with anything but due deference. Followers in Parkin's footsteps please take note. In other words, where ever angels should fear to tread, please, architects, don't put both feet in it.

PJS

¹ As part of the firm of John B. Parkin Associates.

AROUND AND ABOUT ONTARIO

Ayr

This charming village's delightful suburb of Greenfield, off in the north-west corner, notable for the remarkable row of workers' cottages in the neo-Classical Vernacular and once related to the nearby mill (see Ralph Greenhill's photograph in *Rural Ontario*, Plate 62) is up in arms, and rightly so, about North Dumfries Township Council's latest proposal to try for a new access to Highway 401 nearby. This would mean increased traffic through this secluded hamlet thus destroying the amenity of this "as yet relatively unspoiled mill community".

Besides the cottages there are other small houses, the flour mill, a cooper's house and the homestead of John Goldie, the miller who came from Ayrshire, Scotland 140 years ago. Greenfield resident Chris Page told council that the community was being considered for historical designation, presumably as a Heritage Conservation District under Part 5 of the Act. What better candidate could there be!

Barrie

In a new residential development area near the city Rose Corporation, with the help of archaeologists, has excavated a four-acre Iroquois settlement inhabited more than 600 years ago. More than 40,000 artifacts were recovered.

Walking tours through downtown streets are now encouraging people to look more carefully at their historic buildings and recognize their fascinating detail. Heritage Barrie has asked city council to designate six buildings, including the public library, the Sanders Block on Dunlop Street and 123 Dunlop Street where terracotta faces decorate the front.

Barriefield

This small village just east of Kingston which developed at the junction of Highway 15 and 2, and is now sequestered in the new 15 bypass, was one of the earliest if not the first to be declared a Heritage Conservation District. It seems like many

other designated districts it is coming to be challenged for not being flexible enough to permit even sensitive development. Apparently Pittsburgh Township LACAC is also being sharply criticized by one inhabitant trying to enlarge a house in the village, the owner concerned indicating that the guidelines do not seem to be interpreted consistently. But it may be hard to catch up with sins of commission and omission prior to the Plan taking effect, giving such an impression.

Knowing the difficulty of holding the line in all District cases, whether it be old Niagara or Wychwood Park, we would look forward to the ACO sponsoring a full and free discussion of the subject at one of its gatherings.

Belleville

The historic two-storey brick house of Billa Flint, a prominent merchant and politician in the early nineteenth century who helped shape much of Belleville's early history, was finally pinpointed in

1981 by local historian and ACO Quinte Branch member Lois Foster. Although a plaque by the front door marked it, its future more recently has been very uncertain for it had become an office for a long-established lock company. The hardware company site was bought by Teddington Ltd., whose president Brian Magee has promised to restore the house. It now stands alone: the old factory has been demolished. It yet awaits its role as the focal point of the new development and its proposed use as a restaurant.

Billa Flint, born in Brockville in 1805, moved to Belleville in 1829 and built this house in 1835, living there with his wife Phoebe until 1861, when he moved to a new house on the east hill. Incidentally there was another Billa Flint, his father, whose handsome Greek Revival house on Brockville's east hill sits athwart the railway tunnel he built from the main line to that city's waterfront. Just below Brockville City Hall, the south portal of this, Canada's first railway tunnel, is commemorated as a National Historic Site. Will Via soon follow?

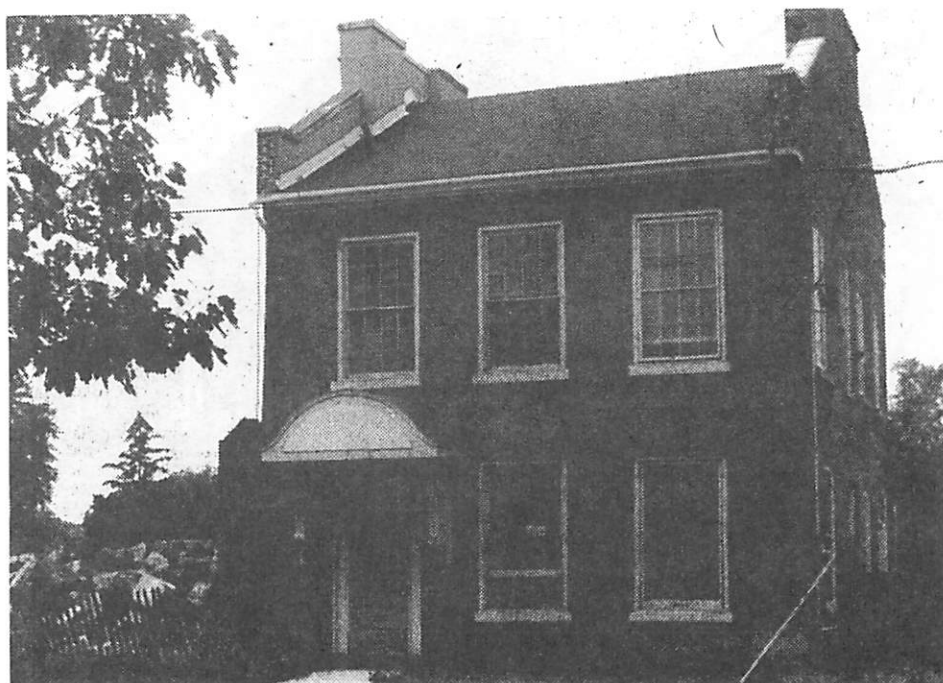
It appears the firm concerned with Belleville's Billa Flint House is also negotiating with the Moira Conservation Authority in connection with repairs and restoration of what is left of Meyers Mill on Station Street. Various proposals for this building have been only partially carried out, yet the building still stands. It is hoped that a workable project can be arranged.

Bowmanville

A plan to replace the Specialty Paper Products Ltd. building, an old factory on Temperance Street in the downtown area, with a twenty-two unit, four-storey structure with 2,500 square metres of commercial floor space met with some opposition from local residents at a mid-summer meeting. Some suggested the old building could be renovated for residential purposes, thus maintaining presumably, the architectural and spatial quality of the area. Although the project was backed by the Downtown Business Improvement Area, it was opposed by the Newcastle Public Library Board.

Caledon

Margaret and David Sharpe have been restoring a designated 1879 stone schoolhouse on Old School Road north of Brampton to become, with additions, their new 4,400 square foot home. Caledon's LACAC had to be satisfied with the



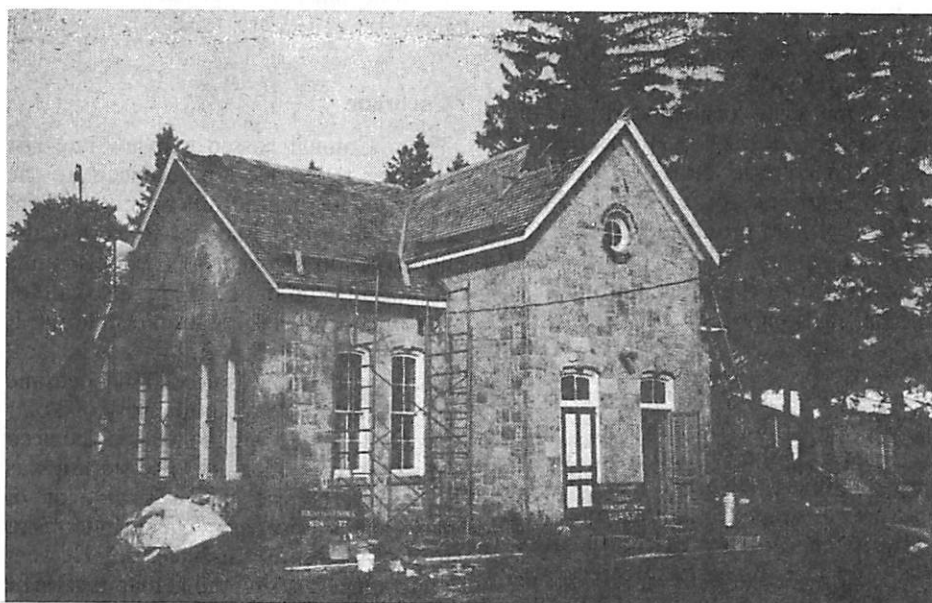
Billa Flint's 1835 brick house on lower Coleman Street in Belleville.

Courtesy the Intelligencer, Belleville

Cambridge

Galt City Hall, renovated and its grand assembly room on the third floor restored as the Council Chamber in the mid 1960s, was assumed by the new City of Cambridge as its municipal building. But such an enlarged community, set up as part of the

changes. Fortunately much of the old school's exterior appearance will remain and this has involved the restoration of its highly decorative bellcot, the work undertaken by Rudy Vandenberg Classic Renovations Inc., of Mississauga.



The Sharpe's old Schoolhouse on Old School Road in south-west Caledon, under renovations.

Courtesy the Reformer, Simcoe



One of Delhi's Queen Anne Revival splendours: designated.

Courtesy The Guardian, Brampton/Bramalea

regional reorganization of Waterloo County, has outgrown the space and city departments have had to move out to larger quarters.

Such abandonment has left the inevitable void and quandary as to what to do with the space. Late in 1989 proposals were sought for its conversion into a new centre for the City's archives, and presumably this work is currently under study.

Chatham

Surfacing in connection with a local newspaper about the Mayor's trip to Ottawa to discuss a matter of local concern was the plan to dispose of the Orr Home, built in 1885-87 and left by its last owner Vivienne (Orr) Dickson to Heritage Canada in 1987. A Chatham group calling itself the Friends of the Orr Home Society would like to help turn the estate into a local tourist attraction as a historic house display.

Clinton

The former Doherty and Co., organ factory, rebuilt after a fire in 1898 as a two-storey L-shaped building, one wing 270 by 50 feet on Irwin Street, the other 200 by 50 feet along East Street, was recently converted to twenty apartments, with two one-bedroom suites, two deluxe suites, the remaining sixteen as two-bedroom units, with two common rooms and an early 1900 Doherty and Co. organ

complete. Now renamed Sherlock Manor it appears the only major external changes were the reduction in size of the original windows, considered too large for the apartments, but very characteristic of the well lighted turn-of-the-century factory, and a new sloped roof felt to give it a more domestic quality in keeping with its new role. It sounds like a very satisfactory recycling project, albeit the original industrial character of the building was to be compromised somewhat in the process.

Cochrane

Town Council passed a bylaw late last summer to rezone land adjacent to the Ontario Northland Railway Station from industrial to commercial to permit the construction of twenty-three motel units adjacent to the station. Plans also call for the expansion of the station restaurant. It was noted that such an increase in local accommodation was needed in Cochrane particularly with the popularity of Polar Bear Express to Moosonee and the need to expand its ridership. The station was described by the railway's director of passenger services as "a classic in terms of turn-of-the-century architecture". He went on to suggest it is intended that its style be preserved with a view to making the station itself a tourist attraction.

This sounds as if Cochrane might be getting back on the rails: Via take note.

Delhi

In mid September, as part of the Tobacco Harvest Fest celebrations, the Township of Delhi LACAC planned a designation ceremony for three buildings, the Cline/White House, the Whiteside/Heath House and the Quance/Wolfer House. The ceremony at the Ontario Tobacco Museum and Heritage Centre was followed by refreshments and tours of the newly designated buildings as well as the Quance sawmill and walks past the Quance dam and grist mill, reminders of Delhi's history.

Perhaps we could be forgiven for softly humming - When smoke gets in your eyes.

Goderich

ACO member, architect Chris Borgal and his wife Philippa are tackling the conservation of a c. 1900 Queen Anne Revival building, still replete with many period features, at 66 Victoria Street North in Goderich and known as the Hunter House. The building has become the new office for the firm. Only the original porch has been replaced by a later detail: it is hoped that in future the original detail may be replaced. Of course, the house is designated.

Gravenhurst

Scene of a restored opera house and an old lake steamer, the Segwun, this town also enjoyed one of those ornamental highway welcome gates proclaiming the community's amenities and its role as the gateway to the Muskoka Lakes. It would seem to be from the early part of this century, possibly the 1920s when motor travel was definitely becoming popular. But the archway has been taken down after being declared unsafe by the town. Now the local newspaper, the *Gravenhurst News*, is seeking support for its revival.

Late last summer at the Bethune Memorial House, the former Presbyterian manse, an archaeological team was investigating the property prior to landscaping with a view to determining the earlier yard layout and to discover any artifacts useful for interpretation.

Hamilton

In the historic, and, incidentally, architecturally significant Durand Neighbourhood of this city a listed, but as of mid-1989 not yet designated mansion built in 1885 at 65 Markland Street was spared further encroachment by new building. The house originally occupied four lots. By demolishing a two-storey enclosed

porch on the east side of the house, the new owner managed to sever the easternmost lot where a new house is being built. To achieve a severance of the south side of the property similarly necessitated the demolition of a substantial wing, an integral part of the original house. But this would have left the rear yard to the old house some eleven feet or 3.4 metres too short: the Committee of Adjustment would not allow it, noting it as a major exemption.

Meanwhile, at Mount Albion the old Victoria Hotel on Mud Street, still with a typical two-storey verandah, such a common feature to old hotels and taverns, was threatened. When David Cuming first reported on the locality there were five older buildings signifying the settlement. Last summer only the ruin of the stone blacksmith shop and the abandoned hotel remained. Letters to the editor of the *Hamilton Spectator* pleaded for proper reconsideration of its preservation.

A curious anomaly surfaced in the summer, vigorously opposed by a wide-awake group of Hamilton citizens, who discovered that the City had exempted itself from zoning change provisions meaning, in practical terms, that parks, for instance, could be used for other purposes without as much as an if-you-please. This is rather like the Provincial and Federal governments skirting - or is it shirking? - their responsibilities with regard to the treatment of heritage buildings, not to mention other vital issues too numerous to mention here.

Iroquois

A study of proposed waterfront enhancement has been called for in this village on the St. Laurence Seaway. Site of the Carman House (often known locally as the Carman/Forward House) of c. 1819, Iroquois' Centennial restoration project, this historic building probably stands within the area to be considered. We trust due respect and consideration will be afforded it.

Kincardine

A Heritage Walk was staged in this community on Lake Huron by its LACAC in August and attracted over 100 participants despite the rain. There were five longer walks of two hours' duration, four shorter one-hour tours, but only two carriage tours were possible before the rain began. Others not taking the tours could view the collections of artifacts and old photographs gathered by various citizens for display in the auditorium of the town hall. One part of this exhibition promoted a history book of Kincardine Township to be published in the spring of 1990.

to participate in a two-day discussion on how to resolve, and even try to avoid, conflicts between heritage conservationists and developers. In a keynote speech entitled *Environmental Mediation Today*, Lawrence E. Susskind, director at the public disputes program at Harvard indicated that meeting to thrash out the issues in a non-confrontational way to forge consensus was the better approach. This could best be done by turning from formal planning rules to a more relaxed atmosphere where participants define their own directives to reach solutions to suit the particular case, to foster solving problems in a mutually satisfactory way and to substitute consensus for majority decision thus obviating the usual confrontational disputes which end with win-lose results often leaving behind frustration, disappointment, acrimony and, we might note, only too often ill-conceived and second-rate, if not disastrous, consequences.

But after all this is Earth, a planet populated by human beings, most not content with happy co-existence, nor interested in a purely custodial role, but bent it so often seems on strangely inhumane concerns



The Archway over the highway entrance to Gravenhurst, as it appeared in 1927.

Courtesy Gravenhurst News

The old seven-storey office building of the Westinghouse plant on Sanford Avenue north of Barton Street has been designated apparently, but stands vacant. A proposal to recycle this for non-profit co-operative apartments has so far hit an environmental roadblock: the area is considered unsuitable by reason of air pollution and noise from the factory across the street. It seems local residents had not been informed that their immediate neighbourhood had ever stood in such jeopardy.

Houses on Princess Street, Durham Street and North Durham Market were included in the tours, as well as Knox Presbyterian Church and the lighthouse.

Kingston

At a mid-September 1989 conference launching the Canadian Centre for Livable Places* about fifty planners, developers, architects, conservationists and officials from three levels of government gathered

like pure prosperity propelled by greed. Best of luck!

* Toronto-centred communities please take note.

Kitchener

The Conversation Review Board upheld the City's decision to designate a c. 1856 fieldstone farmhouse at 1198 Highland Road. The Board also recommended that



Fieldstone farmhouse, at 1198 Highland Road,
Courtesy Kitchener-Waterloo Record

a one-acre park should be reserved around the house to preserve it from the encroachment of modern suburban development.

This is a particularly nice touch which might be explored by other burgeoning communities. The Board was impressed by presentations made in the case for preservation, and less moved by opposing arguments.

Lansdowne

TIARA, the Thousand Islands Area Residents Association, has yet another feather in its cap, its success late last summer in the OMB decision to see that Point Comfort Marsh on the St. Lawrence river

shoreline of the Front of Leeds and Lansdowne, is zoned Environmental Protection. The Official Plan noted part of the site for Tourist Commercial, which the zoning by-law also acknowledged, and this was the subject of the challenge by the group, whose mandate includes "to preserve and improve the present character of the Thousand Islands with emphasis on the environment".

Lindsay

Lindsay LACAC has been affixing plaques to designated buildings, including the 1853 Bank of Upper Canada at 12 Russell Street East, now owned by Paul and Susan Schrier. The building is a handsome



Schrier House at 12 Russell Street East, once
Lindsay's Bank of Upper Canada, built in 1853.
Courtesy Lindsay Post

neo-Classical structure with prominent labels or hood moulds to windows displaying Greek Revival pediment on console brackets below and segmented forms above, with wide eaves and a bracketed cornice heralding the Italianate.

Lindsay has received a Main Street Report, under that well-known program of Heritage Canada. An editorial notes that though it does restate the obvious, and a situation clear in the minds of local citizens, not the least by LACAC, it is hoped that the town will start working on it.

But at the same time concerns are being expressed about a situation common to many older communities when small businesses such as real estate offices and professional services begin to spread beyond the commercial core and seep into peripheral residential areas.

London

Orlo Miller, London author and historian, in writing to the *London Free Press*, stresses the need for all groups and individuals concerned with heritage conservation to band together and mount a well organized campaign to effect their goals, the most important of which should be:

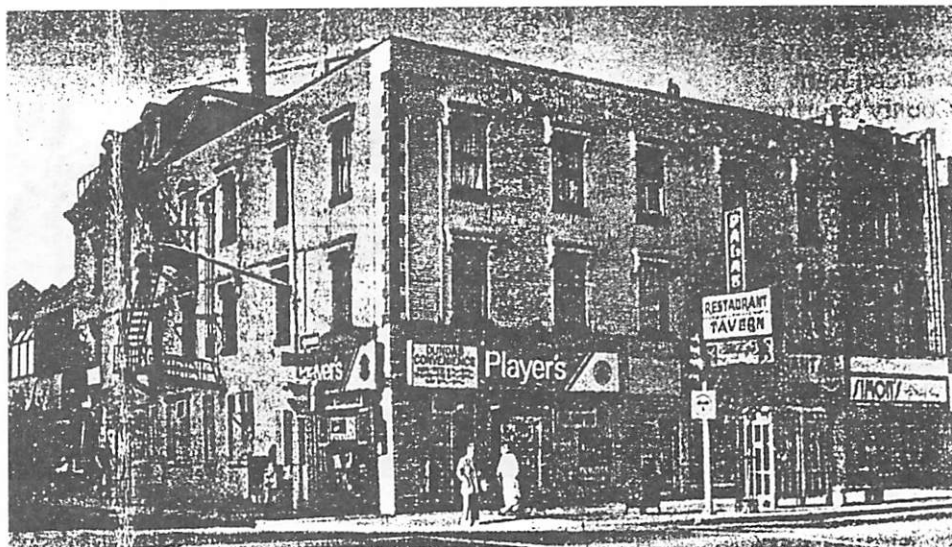
- "1. Support for a stronger and more money-powerful Ontario Heritage Act and its foundation.
2. A Local Architectural Conservation Advisory committee with adequate funding and power to act in emergencies.
3. A city council that won't have to apologize to our grandchildren for the atrocities committed with their money.
4. A heritage supervisor with guts and power to use them.
5. A planning committee with 20-20 vision.
6. A London heritage fund-raising committee with a real goal in the millions, instead of a few thousand dollars.
7. A community that cares, instead of cries."

He ends with the suggestion that personal commitment and even financial contribution could help turn the tide, lest London be lost forever. It was also Mr. Miller's idea to galvanize local preservation groups into concerted action, even symbolically, by arranging a pilgrimage to Carlisle, about 30 kilometres north-west of London (not the village north of Hamilton) to view London's first town bell, sold to Arva in 1855 and purchased by Carlisle for \$40 in 1856.

Meanwhile the Talbot Street area has again come into the limelight with the

proposed redevelopment of the north-east corner at Dundas and including a handsome neo-Classical design with bracketed window hoods, possibly of the later 1850s but now *sans* roof cornice, and a narrow 1840s structure known as the Gothic Hall, the latter figuring more strongly in preservationists' support.

But the main block, three storeys high, defines the corner so well and is very much in scale with the neighbouring Talbot streetscape, diagonally on the opposite side. Canada Trust wishes to replace buildings with a four-storey office block. Isn't this a case of *déjà vu*? We seem to remember the replacement of an historic building in Guelph's last pre-Confederation block on Wyndham Street by the company with the logo which looks ominously like a poised grab-bucket.



North-east corner of Dundas and Talbot Streets.
Courtesy The London Free Press

Millbrook

The Friends of Old Millbrook School (also known as the Millbrook Cavan Community Heritage Fund), with the help of a grant from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, purchased in 1985 the elementary school opened in 1889 and closed in 1982. This important building crowns the south hill of the village, is a significant heritage structure and has been designated since. The Friends of Millbrook School maintain the building and provide space for local community groups undertaking social, educational, cultural and recreational activities and services in this local landmark.

Furthermore MACAC, Millbrook Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, is a very active organization with a well considered heritage building list and several designated structures to its credit.

Mississauga

The City has designated the millworkers' cottages on the north side of Eglinton Avenue West just east of the new Credit River bridge and a short distance south of Streetsville to forestall their demolition, for they are considered historically and architecturally significant relating to the milling on the Credit nearby.

Owner of the Cawthra-Elliott Estate, the deeply wooded property cradled in the south-east angle of the Queen Elizabeth Way and Cawthra Road, is the City of Mississauga, which has commissioned architects Alexander Tempore and Associates to undertake a study for conversion of the house to a conference centre. This 1926 rough-cast building was designed by William Lyon Somerville in the Colonial

Revival style very much of Upper Canadian inspiration. We wonder if Somerville had been stimulated by the interest engendered locally by that relative newcomer to the scene, Eric R. Arthur.

Mayor Hazel McCallion, an executive member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities reported on that organization's resolution asking all provinces to provide stronger heritage legislation to help municipalities combat demolition of historic, and presumably architecturally significant, properties. Better late than never, we do agree, but we are not holding our breath. In the meantime Mark Warrack, the City's first full-time LACAC coordinator, is proceeding with completion of the list of heritage buildings and helping preparations for designations for those considered the prime examples.

Mitchell

Mitchell has always been a special place on the map, with its handsomely wide main street dominated by the Hicks House Hotel, an impressive mansard-roofed block of the Second Empire style. Designation is proceeding, the hotel block included and a one-and-a-half storey house with bargeboarded Gothic centre gable at 38 Waterloo Street also. Marie Adams is looking for old photographs of the house which shows some exterior changes such as the filling in of a wider and higher entrance than the present doorway, suggesting sidelights and transom originally, a tripartite window enlargement and a verandah with spoolwork and fretted scallop fringe looking very much of the 1890s.

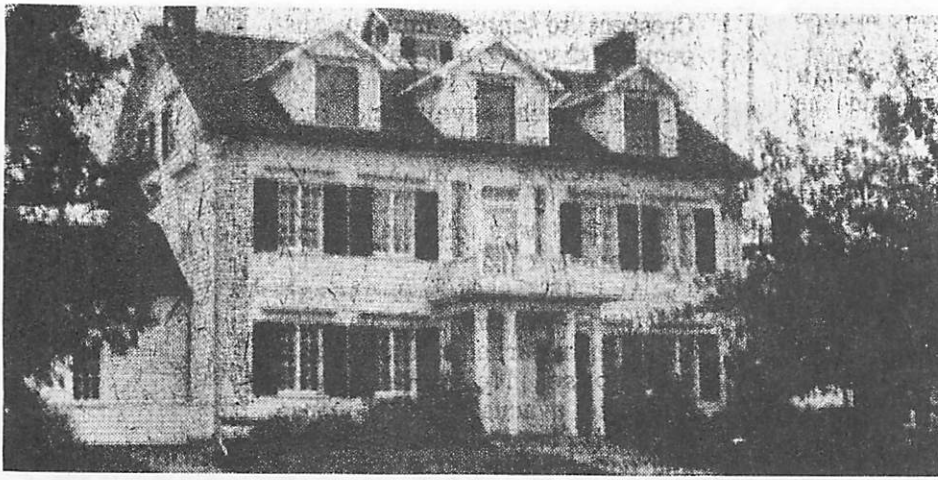
Oshawa

The Second Marsh, on Lake Ontario, within the eastern fringe of the city now dominated by the new General Motors office headquarters visible from Highway 401, has been declared a wetland of exceptional significance. Wildlife Habitat Canada has proposed a concept for its interpretation and preservation, offering to pay half the cost of that exercise. Ducks Unlimited are also interested, which means the City of Oshawa may have a minimal share to raise.

But the City has been holding back awaiting the results of a comprehensive shoreline development plan, including the Second Marsh now owned by the Oshawa Harbour Commission, which was refused funding by the Federal Government for a new harbour development in this particularly sensitive area. In the meantime GM is dealing with the extensive grounds around its new offices, allowing the Second Marsh Defense Association to landscape the area with almost every shrub and tree native to Ontario including a reconstruction of Southern Ontario's Carolinian forest. The City of Oshawa needs your expressed support to pursue its side of the bargain.

Ottawa

The National Capital Commission is hoping to proceed with conservation and renovation of the Daly Building, that historic early twentieth century Chicago-style department store building on Rideau Street and Sussex Drive near the Chateau Laurier as well as renovations to the



Billings House, 1828, Ottawa
Photo by Anand Maharaj Courtesy The Citizen

Chambers Building. Heritage Ottawa, outcome of the ACOs former Ottawa Branch, has been critical of delays, but NCC chairman Jean Pigott said budget cuts would not affect the projects. The NCC is also involved in the conservation of wetland sites: see reference to Stony Swamp under Richmond.

Concern was also voiced for the proposed demolition of the Paterson House at 500 Wilbrod Street in Sandy Hill by a local group: suggestions for its preservation and recycling were mentioned.

The historic Billings House overlooking the Rideau River towards the city's south end, a building constructed c. 1828, by Braddish Billings, the first white settler in Gloucester Township, is now owned by the City of Ottawa along with an adjacent cemetery and 17.3 acres of land. The estate was purchased from the Billings family in 1974 to save the house from demolition. Recently while examining the building for conservation and further improvements estimated to cost just over \$100,000, further structural deficiencies were discovered. This follows the costs of earlier attentions and operating costs calculated to be more than \$2 million over the past fifteen years, an average of some \$135,000 per annum, not really so much for a heritage property of that calibre.

Owen Sound

Designations include the British Episcopal Methodist Church at 245 Eleventh Street West and the City was considering McKay Brothers Ltd., dry-goods store closed in June of 1989 and sold to a local realtor. The old Post Office of limestone, built

1907-1910 and closed in 1956, later becoming a bank, Bell Canada office and nursing home, was purchased in 1988 by Investment Amplified of Port Elgin. Some restoration of internal features such as the main staircase has occurred and the exterior is said to be much the same as the original, with the removal of an unsightly 1960s addition on a side street. The upper floors have been converted to apartments. A spokesman for the owner believes that a good balance was struck between restoration and renovation following consultation with LACAC.

Pakenham

Noted for one of the heritage stone bridges in Ontario, this village also has a notable late Victorian Roman Catholic Church. The magnificent steeple of this 1892 church is being refurbished, which we presume to mean appropriate conservation, in preparation for its centennial.

Peterborough

September 1989 marked the centennial of this community's Clock Tower and Market Hall, the tower still a downtown focus close to the market square. Martha Kidd was on hand for the opening of an exhibit of vintage photographs and early maps of the downtown area, held at Artspace.

Petrolia

This towns magnificent civic structure Victoria Hall of the 1880s, designed by the London, Ontario architect George Durand and including the opera house restored under the direction of Howard Chapman and Howard Walker, was tragically gutted by fire in January of 1989. The town has been trying to settle the insurance claim

after being offered less than 30% of its insured value. The community should be due better deserts for not only having treated its heritage respectfully so far, but also for its intention to try to restore the original building.

Richmond

The National Capital Commission, in trying to protect the Stony Swamp area, expressed its wish to expropriate land in Kanata to protect the area from encroaching residential development. This should be an example to others.

A far more sensitive area, the Richmond Fen in Goulbourn Township south-west of the village of Richmond, where private water and waste disposal systems accompanying ever more popular estate development would be far more likely to endanger this special environment, is also threatened. A plea to protect it suggests involving not only the municipality but also the regional government and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority.

St. Thomas

Work proceeds on the Old Church of St. Thomas now that the roof, tower and steeple have been restored. The interior floor structure and planking has also been completed. Removal of the 1967 drywalling of the ceiling is underway in preparation for restoring the original plaster finish.

Conservation work including exterior cleaning on the Richardsonian Romanesque City Hall is also going ahead and some improvements are being made around the former Elgin County Courthouse.

Sarnia

Finally a heritage plaque commemorating the designated McKellar/Carter House built in 1895 at 303 North Brock Street was installed in September 1989, one of ten buildings so noted under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Stouffville

Bruce's Mill built in 1858 and now owned by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, is to be restored. It still has a complement of c. 1900 milling machinery.

The authority is looking for old photographs or other information to assist in this work: if you can help please get in touch with Dorie Billich of the Authority at 416-661-6600.

Temagami

A great deal of soul-searching and action including demonstrations such as blockades have been brought to light, thanks to the media covering such events, in the pleas to save the Temagami forest areas from further logging. It has been stated that despite partial cutting around the turn of the century some first-growth stands of white and red pine were left. Countering demands to save these were the concerns of local people and logging companies to preserve the economic life of the area. There was also mention of the fact that trees, even first-growth specimens, do not live forever.

True enough, but where is the balance to be struck? Must we be satisfied with remote areas like Quetico or the too few and too small miracles of survival like the unlogged climax forest represented by Peter's Woods just north of Cobourg?

Toronto

Wonders will never cease: at last the Royal Alexander Theatre has been declared a National Historic Site. That means a handsome bronze plaque, but little else. We still have to thank Ed Mirvish for being brave and brash enough to become embroiled in that building in the first place and we hope it has paid him what he so rightly deserves, if not in cash, perhaps in satisfaction and well earned profit of accolades.



McKellar/Carter House, 1895, 303 Brock Street North, Sarnia.

Courtesy Observer, Sarnia

Theatres may be having a come-back as the restoration of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre and Pantages in downtown signifies. But others, like that last fling, the University on Bloor Street West, are coming down.

Even older buildings of the CNE are receiving a reprieve: the restoration of the Music Building after the fire severely damaged the structure in 1987 was being reconsidered.

The Toronto Historical Board succeeded in having Maple Leaf Gardens designated, but Harold Ballard, before his latest illness, was already promoting a new stand for the Maple Leafs and promising not to demolish the old one.

Tory Hill

In 1988 the brick United Church, constructed in 1928, was closed, another indication of the decline of this small settlement in the Haliburton area. Many other communities, once service centres for the locality, have suffered a familiar fate. We begin to wonder too about other churches in the Haliburton Highlands, like St. Peter's, Maple Lake in whose graveyard B. Napier Simpson Jr. is buried. St. Peter's was built of local stone, by John Billing, the builder too, we understand, of the stone bridge over the Humber near the Old Mill in Etobicoke, and the fence around the graveyard at Colborne Lodge.

Trenton

LACAC managed to designate Mount Pelion and its tower and the Dufferin Centre, the old multi-room public school used as a community centre, part of which now serves as the City's new Council Chamber.

But as reported elsewhere the Old Town Hall and Market House of 1861 by Kivas Tully, though still designated, needs to be taken in hand.

Walkerton

One of twelve Niagara Escarpment Commission awards was given to Gayle Thomas for her conversion of an 1860 log house into an antique store, for its unusual treatment and the preservation of a natural setting for the building tucked away amid maple trees, which accords with the commissions plans for the escarpment.



Donald A. Wilson House, 1928 at 519 Dundas Street East, Whitby.

Courtesy The Oshawa Times

Whitby

A 1928 brick house, at 519 Dundas Street East, known as the Donald A. Wilson House, was to be designated for its custom-built quality, and connection with a local personage. It has been adapted to commercial use without losing any of its significant architectural features apparently. Here at least is one rather Rackhamish design (with a whoops-a-dearie cat-slide over the entrance) which will be preserved for posterity. Another vintage 1928 house is also designated. We hope earlier examples, and maybe later ones too, are not being neglected.

The town is also involved in further studies of the former Ontario County Courthouse, the building to be considered for museum, town archives and theatre. The front is a handsome Greek Revival design of 1852 by Cumberland and Storm.

Windsor

A church building group in Sandwich, adjoining Windsor, has lost three of its earlier buildings, a c. 1889 cottage, a 1906 parish hall and the 1914 rectory: the replacement is to be six storey, sixty-two unit senior citizens residence. There were some who regretted the loss, but Windsor's LACAC had turned down a request to designate the buildings.

Much of this information has been gleaned from press reports made available by the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Communication.

SOURCES

Jack Pine Shingles

Plus Jay Pine Shakes is a Northern Saskatchewan supplier of sawn pine shingles which are resistant to hail and considered more durable than western red cedar. The shingles are sawn from jack pine, are roughly 3/4" thick at the butt, tapered, 18" long by 6" wide. This last dimension, being regular, makes breaking of joints between shingles in three consecutive courses much easier in a three-ply roof; one simply offsets the joint for the next course one third or 2".

The shingles are not always entirely clear, however, but the knots are hard and tight. Edge-grain is favoured though some face-grain may permit minor cupping or arching. The wood is tough, somewhat resinous, and therefore likely to be durable: the manufacturer puts out a twenty-five year warranty on the material.

In recommendations for laying there is some reliance on B.C. practice which tends to allow greater exposure to the weather than three-ply roofs essential for Ontario locations, so that watch should be kept for this and quantities ordered adjusted accordingly. The manufacturer has sought CMHC approval and was searching for examples of pine shingles in place in Eastern Canada, having found some in Nova Scotia to demonstrate their satisfactory performance.

Also available are shingles cut with rounded ends which when laid create a fishscale pattern: this and other regular patterning using different end outlines are obviously possible with the standard 6" width. There may be only one disadvantage, namely the regularity in the roof when laid with this repetitive and exact 6" module. But anything is better than a cedar shingle roof, even of top quality material, perishing in less than twenty-years. The cost of these shingles is stated to be very competitive with the B.C. red cedar sawn variety, top grade.

For further information write to:

Plus Jay Pine Shakes
A Division of Kiljay Shake & Log
Supplier Co. Ltd.
Box 236,
Buchanan, Saskatchewan S0A 0J0
or telephone: (306) 592-2045

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

These are mentions: reviews should follow in later issues.

(Architectural/Historical)

Ample Mansions

The Viceregal Residences of the Canadian Provinces

R.H. Hubbard

University of Ottawa Press, 1989

Historic Guelph

The Royal City

Guelph Historical Society

Guelph, September 1989.

\$6.00 per copy postpaid from

Guelph Historical Society

P.O. Box 1502

Guelph, Ontario

N1H 6N0

Heritage in Stone;

Yosef Drenters and Rockwood Academy

Text by Barbara Smiley

Wood engravings, type-set, printed, bound and with specially woven linen cover, all hand-produced by G. Brender à Brandis, Bookwright, Carlisle, Ontario L0R 1H0. By appointment 416-689-8891.

A limited edition of 160 numbered copies at \$275.00

(Technical)

Termite Tips:

Newsletter of Urban Entomology Program
Faculty of Forestry
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1A1.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 26, 1990

Camden East Picnic

Cottage Inspection

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Picnic - 12 o'clock noon.

Come to Camden East (via 401 to Camden East Road exit, north to Camden East, west on Newburgh Road to Skinner/Jackson House on south side of road. (Alternative route via Palace Road to Newburgh Road and through Newburgh to west end of Camden East.)

Inspection of Camden East cottage under restoration by The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, a pot-luck picnic provided by the Quinte Region Branch of the ACO, followed by a Walking Tour of Camden East. Donation \$15.00 or more if you wish.

Please send your cheque made out to The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. and send it to Head Office at

10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

A place will be reserved for you.

Come one, come all, the more the merrier.

Sunday, June 3, 1990

Geranium Walk, 1990

London, Ontario

For further information and tickets write to:

London Region Branch
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
c/o Postal Box 22
Station B,
London, Ontario
N6A 4V3

June 6-8, 1990

PORTICO TO THE 90's

University of Guelph

Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees of Ontario

The 1990 LACAC Conference sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications and the City of Guelph LACAC.

Tuesday, June 5, 1990

Pre-Conference Workshops

6, 7 and 8 June Conference program.

Saturday, June 9: Post Conference Tours
(requiring pre-registration)

Full registration fee \$90.00 per person plus \$20.00 for closing banquet (After 30 April 1990 Registration fee will be \$120.00).
Alternative daily fee \$30.00 per person.

For further information write to:

1990 LACAC Conference
193 Woolwich Street
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3V4

October 6-11, 1990

ICOMOS 1990: 9th General Assembly and International Symposium Lausanne, Switzerland.

Theme: ICOMOS, a quarter century

Sub-Themes: Achievements and future prospects

The Venice Charter

Experience and education.

Registration required before 1 August 1990

Fee: All in *Swiss francs*, accommodation extra

before 1 June 1990: 400 (participant)

380 (accompanying person)

after 1 June 1990: 440 (participant)

410 (accompanying person)

For further information and registration forms please be in touch with:

ICOMOS 1990

c/o Office du Tourisme et des Congrès

Case Postale 248

CH-1000 *Lausanne 6*

Switzerland

The Case for Heritage Conservation

by Anne Westaway

The central areas of Brantford need help. They should be studied and re-evaluated so they may enjoy renewed vitality. Initiatives must be taken to assist individuals to renovate and to build new compatible developments and to help them improve the quality of life in the core of the city.

For years this need has been ignored. The authorities have seemed determined to shift the centre of gravity from the old downtown to a couple of cheerless thoroughfares in the north end. At best, this is a thoughtless oversight and, at worst, a disastrously misguided policy.

In many cities, economic necessity has forced people back into town. Commutes are tedious and expensive. Construction costs increase and land values escalate. Older areas begin to appear financially attractive. After a time, many residents find that they prefer this new downtown lifestyle. Houses are more individual, shops more varied and the population more heterogeneous. Life is simply more interesting downtown than it is in the suburbs.

In Brantford, this return is slow. No one is fighting to buy the lease of a store on Colborne Street and, except for fine old houses or a Brantford cottage, downtown real estate is not at a premium.

If Brantford is to maintain its character as a city, conservation must replace this disinterest and neglect. Thankfully there are isolated instances of rehabilitation. The renovations of the Commercial Buildings and the Capital Theatre are splendid examples. Many old houses are beautifully maintained. However, other old properties are being remolded beyond recognition or are being demolished before the owners realize the potential of conservation. Brant Avenue is being designated with the goal of maintaining it as an historic entrance to the city but the surrounding streets will be lost if we are not careful. The demolition of the old City Hall and the relocation of the market were understandable, if misguided, in the context of the 1950s. It must not happen again. Tremendous efforts will have to be made to safeguard our architectural and social heritage in its many forms.

In the 1970s, the provincial government recognized that property owners who wanted to restore and renovate their buildings needed both financial aid and

protection from demolition. The Ontario Heritage Act was passed for this purpose.

Under the act, municipalities were able to appoint LACACs (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees). These committees advise city councils on matters relating to the conservation of buildings and districts of historical or architectural value, and as such try to ensure their protection for the benefit of the community. In extreme cases, this is even against the wishes of the owners.

These committees are called conservancy committees, not preservation committees, for a reason. Preservation means to keep as it is, to preserve intact. Conservation allows wide productive use of site, buildings and environments. New uses, updated interiors, sympathetic renovations and additions are all allowed under the Heritage Act.

In Brantford, the LACAC is called the Heritage Committee. It is often misunderstood. Some see it as a fussy group which wants to preserve every detail of all old buildings. Others view it as a body which will fight development at any cost. Still others feel that it threatens real estate values by imposing designation on properties. All the groups would be happy to see it disbanded.

The committee does not go to these extremes. However, it is against unthinking demolition of property, quick profit taking and disregard for the historic fabric of the city.

The Heritage Committee knows that a respect for the past enables us to plan more responsibly for the future. It is for the preservation of exceptionally fine buildings. It supports conservation of properties of historic or architectural value. And it recommends sympathetic renovation of buildings and districts where alteration can encourage new uses and bring new vitality to an area. It believes in the conservation of our heritage for a variety of reasons.

History

Old buildings are visible evidence of the past. Our grandparents walked through a Victoria Square essentially the same as the one we walk through today. This is a daily reminder of our history. To live in a mix of old and new building links us with our roots and points out to us where we are headed.

Esthetics

Most modern subdivisions are stereotyped and monotonous. Suburban shopping malls are much the same. Strips vary little from city to city. The older sections of a town are different from the new neighborhood but they also differ greatly one from the other. Dufferin Avenue is different from Brant Avenue which is different from William Street. All this in three blocks. Our eyes need these little changes in pattern and style. It is exciting to live in such variety. It keeps us visually awake.

Economics

Revitalized buildings are good for business. Revenue can be generated by the repair and re-use of Heritage properties. The central core of Brantford has a basic infrastructure of cohesive building, transportation and services. Other cities have found that the older commercial areas can be given a new life through the restoration of their historic fabric. Downtown restoration does not mean bulldozing. In the past ten years, we have learned that conservation allows redevelopment to occur individually. Restoration can be instituted on a private basis by the property owners. Some municipalities have even developed grants to assist this process.

Social

Distinctive areas in a city foster civic pride. They make people glad to be identified with their city. The quality of the environment has an effect on the quality of life. This then is the case for heritage conservation. Some buildings may be legally designated heritage buildings for historic reasons. Some may be architectural rarities. Whole neighborhoods may be preserved for their atmosphere and their streetscapes. They are all interconnected and create an environment worth living in. The cause of civic pride, economically viable and esthetically satisfying.

As Churchill said, "We shape our buildings and our buildings shape us." What kind of shape are we in?

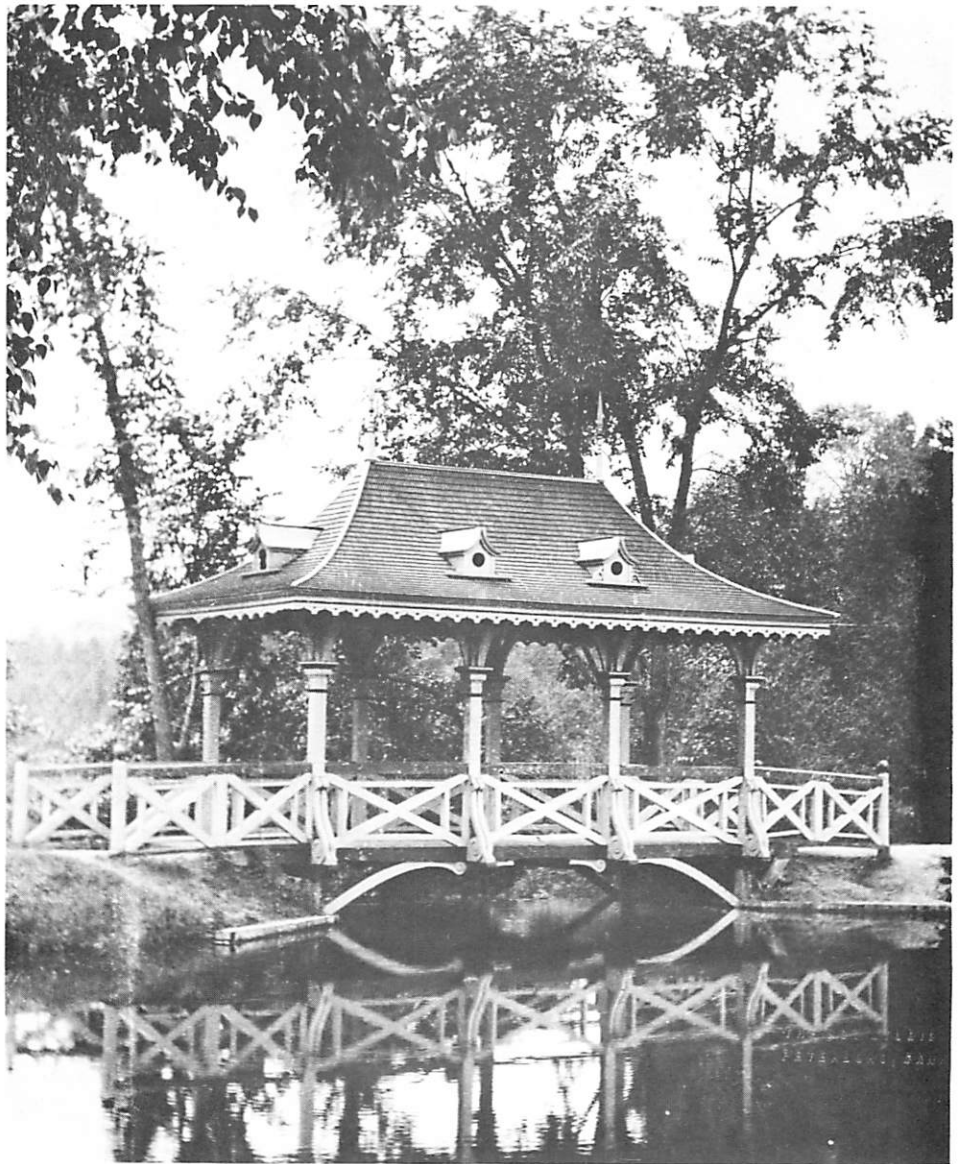
Anne Westaway is a member of the Brantford Heritage Committee (LACAC). Courtesy The Brantford Expositor 25 February 1989

We wish to thank all our donors, and particularly recent contributors, to our last fundraising.

Our special thanks go to Dr. Anthony Adamson who so kindly launched our campaign with his splendid and encouraging appeal which we used on several later occasions.

We look forward to your continuing help to bolster our activities including the operations of the Advisory Board and the Heritage Fund as well as to augment the Acorn Endowment Fund which helps to print and distribute this journal.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided also by Ontario's Ministry of Culture and Communications.



Peterborough's Pagoda Bridge reflected in the lake in Jackson Park: the picture we would have liked for the cover of Acorn XIV-2, but it escaped us. A photograph taken early in this century.

Courtesy The Roy Studio, Peterborough

